Jewish Life in an Era of Extremism

- France
- Germany
- Israel
- Bay Area

January 24
Osher Marin JCC

Joby Warrick
Pulitzer Prize winner
Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS

lehrhaus.org
Lehrhaus Judaica
The Reutlinger Center
2736 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 845-6420
(510) 845-6446 FAX
info@lehrhaus.org

STAFF
Chief Operating Officer/
Senior Educator
Jehon Grist, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer/
Senior Educator
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Jewish Life in an Era of Extremism
Co-presented by Osher Marin JCC
Co-sponsored by Congregations Kol Shofar and Rodef Sholom, and Brandeis Marin

Many people have the impression that the world is filled with new threats to Jewish life. These threats are most visible in France and the Middle East, and less so elsewhere. This mounting antagonism intersects with anti-Zionism and has increasingly taken on features reminiscent of old-style political anti-Semitism. And the resonance of militant Islam, felt not only in the Middle East but also in Europe and beyond, has added another unsettling dimension to this picture. The landscape will likely worsen.

This symposium will confront these vexing issues with full, candid, and far-ranging discussions from a wide variety of viewpoints. Join us for a special presentation on ISIS, keynotes, workshops, and a panel discussion.

Special Presentation
Joby Warrick
Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter
Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS

Keynote Presentations
Fred Rosenbaum
France: Freedom and Anxiety
Gunda Trepp: How Germany Is Confronting Extremism Today
Prof. Eran Kaplan
Extremism in Israel
Abigail Michelson Porth
The Bay Area

Program Facilitators
Prof. Fred Astren
Rachel Eryn Kalish
Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan

Supported by
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Koret Foundation

Space is limited; pre-registration is encouraged.
Sunday, January 24 | 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Free | Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael
Growing Up Interfaith: Stats, Facts and Testimonies

Co-presented by Building Jewish Bridges

Since the advent of the term “interfaith” the Jewish focus has been on the intermarried couple. Research has not explored the experiences of the children of these couples. This conference will be a forum for these previously unheard voices.

Dr. Bruce Phillips will speak on emerging findings from his four-year study of adults from interfaith families. Adult children of interfaith couples will discuss what parental and communal practices empowered them to feel comfortable in their own skins and safe to explore the identity they chose.

Other topics include multicultural Jews, patrilineal Jews, and a best practice discussion for interfaith parents raising children.

The full conference schedule will be released in early 2016.

Lehrhaus and Building Jewish Bridges will present a Jews of the Bay Area photo exhibition showcasing the range of diversity in our community. The exhibition at Temple Sinai will enhance your conference experience. More details will be announced in early 2016.

Space is limited; pre-registration is encouraged.

Supported by the Ingrid D. Tauber Philanthropic Fund of the JCF and the Koret Foundation

Sunday, May 22 | 1:00 - 5:00 pm | $18
Temple Sinai, Oakland
Walking in the Valley of the Shadow — And Not Being Afraid
Dr. Jessica Nutik Zitter and Mark Zitter

A collaboration of The Gamliel Institute, Sinai Memorial Chapel, and Lehrhaus Judaica

Join us at the launch event for Walking in the Valley of the Shadow, a year of conversations around the Bay Area about everything everyone needs to know about life and death.

Dr. Jessica Nutik Zitter will give a presentation, and will be interviewed by Mark Zitter, co-founder of a telephone counseling service for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

We will preview six topics that will be offered from March through August in Berkeley, San Francisco, Walnut Creek, and San Rafael.

• The Other Conversation: Talking With Your Children/Spouse/Partner About End-Of-Life Wishes
• The Final Mitzvot (Getting Your House in Order: Jewish Values)
• Dying/Death/Burial: What Jews Do
• The Art of Comfort
• Mourning and Grief: After the Death
• Your Life Is Over: Where Is Your Soul? Jewish Perspectives on the Afterlife

Opening Program
P500-NS | Sunday, February 28
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Free | Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley

All classes, locations, and teachers at lehrhaus.org

Prelude to Rabin
(Online Option)
Riva Gambert

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s life was shaped by seminal events that led to the creation of the State of Israel. During this 20th anniversary year of Rabin’s assassination, we will take a look at four milestones in the nation’s history.

• The socio-political climate that led to modern political Zionism
• Why the French and British created the “mandate” system at the end of WWI
• Palestinian Jewry’s response to WWII
• American political landscape following the war that shaped President Truman’s recognition of the State of Israel in May 1948

The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival will screen Rabin, In My Own Words. More info: eastbayjewishfilm.org

H350-CBS | Thursdays, January 28 - February 25 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm
$70 / $50 members
Congregation B’nai Shalom, Walnut Creek

register at lehrhaus.org
The Sephardic Experience
Rivka Amado

The Sephardim lived in Spain for almost two millennia, where they flourished. Indeed the eighth to 12th centuries are often called the Golden Age for Jews in Spain because of the cosmopolitan mixture of Jewish, Islamic, and Christian cultures that produced great theologians and philosophers, as well as music and art.

Jewish life in Spain came to a crashing end in 1492, after Moslem rulers were defeated and pushed across the sea to North Africa, and the new Christian rulers issued an edict forcing Jews to convert or depart.

This course explores the life of the Sephardim in the Golden Age of Spain, their history, music, and poetry. It then traces Sephardic diaspora, and the spread of ladino language and Sephardic culture throughout the Balkans, Europe, and elsewhere.

H250-BJ | Tuesdays, February 9 - March 8 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $50 / $40 members | JCC East Bay, Berkeley

Sign up for this class and Romancero! Ladino Songs for $80 / $60 members by registering online for the series Sephardic History, Culture, and Music.

Lost Goddess:
The Life and Death of the Divine Feminine in the Biblical World
(Online Option)
Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

Like it or not, most of us consciously or unconsciously think of God as “He.” But scanning through the ancient religious lives of Egyptians, Mesopotamians, Hittites, Canaanites and also Israelites, we see a generous number of goddesses. Who were they and what can we learn about them? What were their shared and distinct traits? How did the divine feminine manifest itself in biblical Israel from its origins to the destruction of Solomon’s Temple?

And finally: what was the fate of the divine feminine and what were the consequences for Western monotheism? This course will explore and answer these questions.

H300-BJ | Thursdays, March 17 - April 21 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $50 / $40 members | JCC East Bay, Berkeley

Lehrhaus Online Courses

Enjoy your course live in the classroom, live online, or anytime via full video recording, all at no extra cost. So learn your way!
Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

Jewish tradition tells us to live Passover as if we ourselves were there with Moses over 3,000 years ago. This class gives you a chance to do just that. We will discover the land of Egypt at the time of the Exodus, which was probably in the reign of the great king Ramses II (1279-1213 BCE). How did kings, slaves, and ordinary people live at the time of the Exodus? What did they eat? What gods did the Egyptians worship? What really happened in the Exodus miracles?

H250-SH | Sunday, April 17 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm | Free | Congregation Shir Hadash, Los Gatos

A Radical Judaism for Our Time
Rabbi David Cooper and Rabbi Burt Jacobson

Can one be spiritual without believing in “God?” Have the discoveries of science meant that religious “truth” is now obsolete? How do we understand the claims of the Torah once we admit that it was written by human beings? These are some of the questions tackled by the path-breaking theologian, Rabbi Arthur Green in his book Radical Judaism. Green plans to join us via Skype for the final session.

Thursdays, January 21, February 4, 18, March 3, 17, 31, April 14 | 7:00 - 9:15 pm | $175 / $150 members | Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont

The Evolution of Delis: Three Decades of Saul’s in Berkeley
Peter Levitt

What does it mean to be an authentic, vibrant, relevant Jewish deli today? For Saul’s Restaurant & Delicatessen, celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2016, it means bridging the links between the “Old Country” and the “New World,” and the future of food.

Peter Levitt, co-owner and executive chef of Saul’s, will discuss the past, present, and future of delis. What will keep delis from disappearing, as so many have, especially in the historic deli cities of New York and Los Angeles? Saul’s in Berkeley strives to not be frozen in time and not to replicate other places like New York.

Levitt and his co-owner Karen Adelman provide a cultural and culinary home to those looking for familiar and traditional foods. They connect people with their roots all along the timeline of Jewish food. Levitt will share what he has learned in 20 years in the kitchen and on the floor of the Bay Area’s longest-standing deli.

Join us for Levitt’s talk at the JCC East Bay before continuing around the corner to Saul’s to sample a selection of the deli’s culinary delights.

The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival will screen Deli Man on Thursday, March 10. See eastbayjewishfilm.org for more information.

Tuesday, March 15 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | $36 (includes food) | JCC East Bay and Saul’s Deli, Berkeley
Festival Jewishness: Learning About Jews at Cultural Events
Prof. Ari Y. Kelman
Sponsored by the UC Berkeley Center for Jewish Studies and co-sponsored by the GTU Center for Jewish Studies

The Krakow Jewish Festival ranks among the first and largest Jewish cultural festivals in the world. Over the years, the festival has drawn praise and criticism and no small measure of journalistic and scholarly attention, the majority of which revolves around the strangeness of celebrating Jewish culture in a city whose Jewish population was decimated during the Holocaust. Prof. Kelman will explore what, if anything, people who attend the festival are learning about Jewish life and culture.

Wednesday, February 10 | 6:00 pm reception; 6:30 pm lecture | Free
The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley

Freud, Politics, and Anti-Semitism
Gilad Sharvit, Ph.D.
Sponsored by the UC Berkeley Center for Jewish Studies

This talk aims to portray the intricate effects of Freud’s anxieties regarding anti-Semitic violence on his political theory and metapsychology. Taking as its entry point Freud’s reorientation of anti-Semitism as aggressive action, Sharvit argues that Freud’s fear of the violent mob can be located in three interconnected dimensions of his work, all deeply informed by Hobbesian imagination.

Sharvit’s claim is that, suffering from anti-Semitism, Freud was not only quick to accept a Hobbesian perspective, but that he also reconstructed it to a degree that radically changed its meaning.

Tuesday, March 10 | 6:00 pm reception; 6:30 pm lecture | Free
The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley

The Congregation Beth El Israel Pre-Tour Course (Online Option)
Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

Join us for a virtual visit through Israel’s ancient and modern history, following the itinerary of the upcoming Congregation Beth El tour. Our course will begin with a journey through the key sites and events of ancient Israel, connecting students with both the biblical text and the lifeways of our ancestors. We’ll move on to the story of modern Israel, from the beginnings of the Zionist movement to current headlines. Whether you’re going on this tour or just thinking about visiting Israel, this course offers a comprehensive introduction to the land of our people.

Participants will also have access to an expanded, fully narrated, and illustrated version of the course online.

H300-CBE | Thursdays, February 25 - March 3 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm
$35 / Free for tour participants
Congregation Beth El, Berkeley
The Future of Israeli Democracy
Yossi Klein Halevi
Co-sponsored by Osher Marin JCC and Congregation Rodef Sholom
Acclaimed author, journalist, and thought leader Yossi Klein Halevi will address the future of Israeli democracy. Despite endless war and siege and almost a half century of occupation, Israeli democracy has persisted. But can that miracle endure? And how will Israel continue to balance its Jewish and democratic identities? An audience Q&A and a book signing will follow the program.
Thursday, March 3 | 7:00 pm | Free
Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

The Jewish Course of Why
Rabbi Dovber Berkowitz
Presented by Jewish Learning Institute
It’s a good thing Jews love to ask questions because there’s hardly a more effective way to learn than by asking a good question. From the profound to the almost profane, and everything in between, this course will address some of the most puzzling aspects of Jewish tradition.
Ever wondered why the Bible sanctions slavery and animal sacrifices? What is the cause of anti-Semitism?
Tuesdays, February 9 - March 15
10:00 - 11:15 am | $180 per couple / $100 per person | Chabad of Contra Costa, Walnut Creek
Tuesdays, February 9 - March 15
7:30 - 8:45 pm | $180 per couple / $100 per person | Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Lafayette

As a Mighty Stream: The Life of an American Rabbi
Rabbi H. David Teitelbaum
Rabbi Herbert David Teitelbaum grew up in San Francisco, the son of Yiddish-speaking immigrants. Immersed in Jewish culture, religion and tradition, he became a rabbi, serving in the army as a chaplain during the Korean War. His postings to the South during his seminary days sparked his anger at the Jim Crow system and his desire to join the civil rights movement. Rabbi Teitelbaum’s memoir, As a Mighty Stream: The Life of an American Rabbi, chronicles his full and active life in service to the Jewish community.
Sunday, January 10 | 2:00 pm | Free
Jewish Community Library, San Francisco

Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning
Timothy Snyder
Join Timothy Snyder, Yale historian and foremost expert on Central and Eastern Europe, for an absorbing discussion of Black Earth, his groundbreaking history of the Holocaust and assessment of today’s risks in the face of mounting ideological and environmental challenges to the world order.
Thursday, March 17 | 7:00 pm
$37 premium / $27 standard
JCCSF, San Francisco

register at lehrhaus.org
**Israel: Jews and Muslims in America in Dialogue**

*Wajahat Ali and Yehuda Kurtzer*

Join Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, and Wajahat Ali, author, journalist and playwright for a discussion about the Middle East and how Jews and Muslims in America can speak to each other about the conflict in the Middle East. This program is part of the series Salaam, Shalom: Speaking of Peace, generously supported by Trícia and Richard Gibbs.

**Tuesday, April 5 | 7:00 pm | Free**

Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

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**Social Justice Lecture With Dr. Chen Alon**

Join us for the sixth annual Social Justice Lecture of the USF Jewish Studies and Social Justice Program with Dr. Chen Alon.

Alon — actor, facilitator, theater director and teacher — has been at the forefront of restorative justice programs in Israel and Palestine for over a decade. He is a lecturer in the Department of Theater Arts at Tel Aviv University and a co-founder of Combatants for Peace — a movement of Jewish Israelis and Palestinians promoting nonviolence between these two communities.

**Sunday, April 10 | 7:00 pm | $17**

JCCSF, San Francisco

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**Jewbilee**

Jewbilee is a full afternoon of classes, workshops, and performances for all ages. The Jewbilee ideal is that the entire Jewish community can come together for a day under one roof, despite our many differences, and celebrate being Jewish and what that means to each of us.

**Lehrhaus’ Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan at 3:50 pm**

**DESIRE: IT’S GOOD FOR YOU! THE BODY, SEXUALITY AND FAT RABBIS IN THE TALMUD**

Sunday, January 31 | 1:00 – 8:00 pm

$5 general / $1 member /
Free children 4 and under
Addison-Penzak JCC, Los Gatos

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**Never the Last Road: A Partisan’s Life**

Fred Rosenbaum

Fred Rosenbaum will discuss his and Mira Shelub’s new book, published by Lehrhaus and the JFCS Holocaust Center. Barely 20 years old, Shelub escaped from a Nazi labor camp to join the Jewish resistance in the forest. Exposed to the elements, including one of the coldest winters of the century, she fought back against radical evil. She began a passionate love affair that would last a lifetime.

**Saturday, January 30 | 7:30 pm**

$10 suggested donation at the door
Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton
East Bay International Jewish Film Festival

Major festival sponsors include the Jewish Federation of the East Bay and Lehrhaus Judaica.

March 5-13

The festival is celebrating its 21st anniversary of bringing international and independent films to the East Bay. Complete schedule: eastbayjewishfilm.org

Lehrhaus Programs

Location: Century Theatres 16, Pleasant Hill

Labyrinth of Lies
Saturday, March 5, 7:00 pm
Intro & Q&A with Stefan Schlueter, German Consul General

Serial Bad Weddings
Tuesday, March 8, 12:40 pm
Intro & Q&A with Dawn Kepler, Building Jewish Bridges

Deli Man
Thursday, March 10, 10:00 am
Register for The Evolution of Delis: Three Decades of Saul’s in Berkeley on Tuesday, March 15 at the JCC East Bay and Saul’s Deli.

The Experimenter
Friday, March 11, 12:15 pm
Intro & Q&A with Elaine Guarnieri-Nunn, Director of Facing History and Ourselves

Rabin: In My Own Words
Sunday, March 13, 10:00 am
A powerful documentary featuring rare footage capturing the life of the late Yitzhak Rabin
Register for Prelude to Rabin January 28-February 25 at Congregation B’hai Shalom in Walnut Creek.

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett
Presented in partnership with Taube Philanthropies and the Association of Jewish Studies Distinguished Lectureship Program

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett — a distinguished New York University ethnographer, author, essayist and keeper of Poland’s Jewish heritage — talks about the newly-opened POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. She takes us behind the scenes of its core exhibit, developed by a collaboration of more than 120 international scholars under her direction.

Monday, April 4 | 7:00 pm
$37 premium / $27 standard
JCCSF, San Francisco

Sounds From the End of the Earth: Jewish Music in Today’s Chile

Rabbi Reuben Zellman

Reuben Zellman spent a year in Santiago, Chile studying music and learning about Jewish life at the southern edge of the Americas. He will show video clips of Chilean Jews talking about music, language, and identity; teach Ladino secular songs he learned there; and discuss challenges, strengths, and trends of Jewish musical culture in today’s Latin America. He will also reflect on the globalization of Jewish music and its impact on a once very isolated community within a conservative Catholic nation still emerging from the shadow of a long dictatorship.

Thursday, February 4 | 7:00 pm
Free | Jewish Community Library, San Francisco

Register at Lehrhaus.org
**Birds of Longing: Exile and Memory**

*Birds of Longing: Exile and Memory* is a new exhibition by New York-based fiber artist, Laurie Wohl. The fiber art works, known as Unweavings®, intertwines Muslim, Jewish and Christian poetry and spiritual texts from the period of the Convivencia (co-existence) in Spain (8th-15th centuries), and from modern Middle Eastern poets, particularly Palestinian and Israeli.

The project contains Wohl’s weavings, as well as an audio component which consists of readings in English, Arabic, and Hebrew that are interwoven to create a soundscape illustrating the commonality of the Middle Eastern languages.

**Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael**

Exhibition dates: January 20 – February 25

Opening reception with the artist: Wednesday, January 20, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**Addison-Penzak JCC, Los Gatos**

Exhibition dates: March 14 – May 2

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**Vishniac’s Carpathian Photographs**

**Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan**

In 1972, Peretz Wolf-Prusan assisted Roman Vishniac to prepare an exhibition of his images of Carpathian Jewish villages and Galician towns, commissioned by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Wolf-Prusan will share his experience and further illuminate Vishniac’s journey. This talk is presented in conjunction with *Roman Vishniac: Rediscovered*. Gallery chats are short lunchtime talks with notable speakers about the art and stories in the exhibition.

**Friday, April 8 | 12:30 - 1:00 pm**

Free with museum admission

**The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco**

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**I Was a Child: A Memoir**

**Bruce Eric Kaplan**

Bruce Kaplan, cartoonist for *The New Yorker* and writer for *Girls*, will speak on his memoir, *I Was a Child*. It is the first non-fiction book by Kaplan, wholly unique in form and feeling, full of wonder and anxiety, altogether side-splitting and heart-breaking. Above all, it captures what it was like for Kaplan, and perhaps some of you, to be a child.

**Thursday, February 25 | 7:00 pm**

$25 / $18 members

**Addison-Penzak JCC, Los Gatos**
Romancero! Ladino Songs
Mark Levy
The folk ballads and songs of the Sephardic Jews of Turkey, Greece, Morocco, and the Balkans are some of the most beautiful melodies in the Jewish tradition. We will trace their origins and learn as many as time permits. Sheet music and recordings will be provided.

A250-BJ | Tuesdays, April 5 - May 3 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $50 / $40 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

Sign up for this class and The Sephardic Experience for $80 / $60 members by registering online for the series Sephardic History, Culture, and Music.

Surviving Skokie
Eli Adler, Jack Adler, and Blair Gershkow
Surviving Skokie is a documentary by former Skokie resident Eli Adler about the planned neo-Nazi march, the aftermath, his family’s horrific experience of the Shoah, and a journey with his father to confront long-suppressed memories. Jack and Eli Adler and co-producer Blair Gershkow will appear in conversation following the screening.

Sunday, March 6 | 5:00 pm | $10
JCCSF, San Francisco

Learn to Chant Haftarah
Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder
The chanting of the Prophets is a beautiful musical art. Learn to sing the trope signs for Haftarah, and practice applying them to a Haftarah portion.

T200-BE | Sundays, January 10 - February 28 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm | $60 / $40 members
Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton

Bible Circle: The Text in Its World
(Online Option)
Jehon Grist, Ph.D.
Since childhood, we’ve all visited some of the great Bible stories, but we’ve also sometimes not understood everything they have to say. To fully explore the story, you need to go full circle and discover the biblical world from which it came. We’ll study selected texts, covering everything from the basic story line, to the meaning of obscure words and phrases, to the fascinating differences found in other ancient versions of the Bible.

H300-CBIV | Tuesdays, February 23 - March 15 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm
$35 / $30 members
Congregation B’nai Israel, Vallejo

Lehrhaus Philosophy Circle: The Zohar
Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
In honor of the completion of Professor Daniel C. Matt’s epic translation and annotation of the first nine volumes of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, we will discuss selections from this groundbreaking work.

Matt describes The Zohar as “a challenge to the normal workings of consciousness [that] dares one to examine one’s assumptions about tradition, God, and self.”

In addition to The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Vol. 3, all students should have A Guide to the Zohar by Dr. Arthur Green.

T600-ST | Wednesdays and Thursdays, April 13, 14, May 18, 19 7:00 - 9:00 pm | $36 / $18 members
Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa
Seeking a Heart of Wisdom: A Study Group Blending Mussar, Mindfulness, and Positive Psychology

Estelle Frankel

Tikkun Ha’middot, a highly articulated form of “mensch training,” is a spiritual practice shared by Jewish mystics and Mussar masters. Its focus is character refinement through the cultivation of the middot, the virtues essential for wholeness/holiness.

Judaism offers a treasure-trove of teachings for this spiritually transformative work that includes training in the practice of gratitude, humility, faith, equanimity, patience, perseverance, joy, compassion, generosity, loving-kindness, and honesty. There is a growing recognition that these qualities inspire resilience and contribute to a sense of well-being, increased happiness and meaning. The interface of our ancient Jewish wisdom teachings and this emerging new science forms the heart of this study program.

T500-CHL | Thursdays, February 18, March 3, 17, 31, April 14
7:15 - 9:00 pm | $125 / $100 members
Chochmat HaLev, Berkeley

T505-CHL | Thursdays, May 5, 19, June 2, 16, 30 | 7:15 - 9:00 pm
$125 / $100 members
Chochmat HaLev, Berkeley

Back to the Prophets: Judges and Samuel A Challenging Ending and New Beginning

Ken Cohen

We conclude our study of the challenging Book of Judges (Shoftim), and embark on the hopeful material that begins First Samuel.

Having been thrilled by (and been utterly repulsed by) the goings-on of Gideon and his evil son Avimelech…having marveled at Jephthah’s cold-blooded calculations and perverse actions…and having been astonished by Samson’s shenanigans with Philistine women and his uncanny feats of oft-pointless violence…our study group is ready to tackle the grisliest and seemingly amoral (or immoral) story in the Bible.

Having happily finished the Book of Judges, we will begin our study of First Samuel, examining the career of Samuel, the last of the judges, who combined that office with being a full-fledged prophet and eventually Israel’s king-maker.

T106B-CCD | Thursdays, January 14 - April 14 | 7:30 - 9:15 pm
$225 / $200 members
Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Lafayette
The Lost Torah of Shanghai
Linda Frank
The quest for a Torah stolen in Shanghai in early 1991 takes “Jewish Miss Marple” Lily Kovner to a setting with a Jewish history that initially surprises her. While *The Lost Torah of Shanghai* is fiction, author Linda Frank frames her talk in the context of that rich diaspora experience that incorporates the various streams of Jewish life in China — the so-called “real” Chinese Jews of Kaifeng, the Sephardim originally from Iraq, the Russians escaping pogroms, the Bolshevik Revolution and the refugees from Nazi-controlled Europe.

H300-TS | Thursday, January 21
7:00 - 8:30 pm | Free
Temple Sinai, Oakland

Is There a Jewish Mythology?
Howard Schwartz
In this lecture, drawn from his book, *Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism* (winner of the 2005 National Jewish Book Award), Howard Schwartz will weigh the evidence for and against the view that Judaism has its own extensive mythological tradition.

Sunday, March 6 | 1:30 pm | Free
Jewish Community Library, San Francisco

Monday March 7 | 12:45 - 2:00 pm
Free | Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Storytelling of the Rabbis
Howard Schwartz
This lecture traces Jewish legends from their beginnings in the Bible to their evolution in later Jewish literature, demonstrating how the ancient rabbis reimagined the biblical stories and created new ones of their own. Among the legends to be traced are those of Serah bat Asher, who is said to have lived longer than Methuselah; Asenath, Joseph’s Egyptian wife, who legend said was also the daughter of Dina, Jacob’s daughter; and the Tzohar, the glowing stone given by God to Adam and Eve and later used by Noah to illuminate the ark.

Tuesday, March 8 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm
$15 / $12 members
Chochmat HaLev, Berkeley
All in the Jewish Family
Congregation B’nai Tikvah, Walnut Creek | 10:00 – 11:30 am
$5 each program / Free for members

THE NON-JEW IN THE SYNAGOGUE
Dawn Kepler
Our synagogue is blessed to have many active interfaith couples as members. Come learn about the customs and traditions at B’nai Tikvah, including how to behave during services.
P300-CBT | Sunday, January 31

INTERLOVE STORY: WHEN JEWS LOVE NON-JEWS AND JUDAISM
Dawn Kepler and Cantor Jenny Chabon
In 1994, Anne was a graduate film student at Stanford. For her master’s thesis, she made a short film called Interlove Story about her parents’ intermarriage. The film looks at the decisions her Catholic-Jewish family faced.
P250-CBT | Sunday, February 28

PATRILINEAL DESCENT, REFORM JUDAISM, AND THOSE OTHER JEWS
Dawn Kepler
In 1983, the Reform movement officially recognized children of Jewish fathers as Jewish. We will discuss the movement’s statement that every child of a mixed marriage, whether the mother or father is Jewish, must establish their identity as a Jew “through appropriate and timely public and formal acts of identification with the Jewish faith and people.”
P200-CBT | Sunday, March 13

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Conversion to Judaism
Dawn Kepler and Rabbi Lisa Delson
Join a panel of Jews by choice and Rabbi Delson to learn all about conversion.
- Why do some people convert?
- What changes in their lives?
- What is the process of converting?
- How do single people who convert integrate into Jewish community?
- Are there things I should never ask or say to a person I think is a convert?
P200-PTS | Sunday, January 10
9:15 - 10:45 am | $5 / Free for members
Peninsula Temple Sholom, Burlingame

Death and Mourning for the Jew by Choice
Rabbi Ruth Adar
At some point, we all lose loved ones. The person who has converted to Judaism will eventually be faced with mourning a non-Jewish relative. What is appropriate behavior for a Jewish mourner who has lost a non-Jewish loved one?
Join Rabbi Ruth Adar for a two session class that is open to anyone interested in grieving in a multi-faith family with a special focus on how a Jewish convert may honor their non-Jewish loved ones and their own feelings and adopted tradition.
P200-TS | Thursdays, February 4 - 11
7:30 - 9:00 pm | $15
Temple Sinai, Oakland and Private home, San Leandro
Introduction to the Jewish Experience: Israel and Texts

Rabbi Ruth Adar

Co-sponsored by Temple Sinai and Congregation Beth El

The land of Israel has been central to Jewish history, both ancient and modern. This class will examine the history of ancient Israel, the beginnings of rabbinic Judaism, and the modern return to the land. With that history as a backdrop, we will learn about the great texts of Judaism, including the synagogue service.

I125B-TS | Wednesdays, January 13 - March 2 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm | $105 / $90 members | Temple Sinai, Oakland

Online Only Sessions
I125B-OL | Sundays, January 10 - March 6 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm PT | $90

Introduction to the Jewish Experience: Traditions of Judaism

Rabbi Ruth Adar

Co-sponsored by Temple Sinai and Congregation Beth El

There have been multiple expressions of Judaism since the days of the Second Temple. We will study the varieties of Judaism: Ashkenazi Judaism, Sephardic Judaism, and the modern streams of Judaism. We will also look at some of the elements that make American Judaism distinctive. The class will also explore the phenomenon of anti-Semitism from ancient times to today.

I125C-TS | Wednesdays, March 30 - May 25 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm | $105 / $90 members | Temple Sinai, Oakland

Online Only Sessions
I125C-OL | Sundays, April 3 - June 5 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm PT | $90

The Building Blocks of Judaism

This course is for those who wish to learn (or re-learn) Judaism. All are welcome: non-Jews, Jews, interfaith couples, those considering conversion, and anyone who is interested in learning more about Judaism. Students will learn the basics of Judaism in a friendly and informal atmosphere. We'll explore fundamental aspects of Jewish practices such as holiday observance and life-cycle celebrations, including opportunities for some hands-on practice and 2 field trips.

This class will be taught by Beth Am clergy — Rabbi Janet Marder, Rabbi Sarah Weissman, Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit, Rabbi Heath Watenmaker, and Cantor Jaime Shpall — on a rotating basis.

I100B-BA | Thursdays, January 7 - March 31 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm | $135 / $125 members / $75 students and émigrés | Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills

What is Reform Judaism?

Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder

Reform Judaism is a response to the challenges of modernity. Explore the major ideas of Reform Judaism, its innovations, and its creativity. Themes covered in this three-session course include: balancing tradition and personal choice, God in a scientific world, and the meaning of Jewish community in an open society.

Tuesdays, March 29 - April 12
7:30 - 9:00 pm | Free
Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton
Hebrew With Orna Morad
Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills
$240 / $225 members
(unless otherwise noted)

LEVEL A
L100-BA | Tuesdays, January 12 - May 3 | 7:30 - 8:45 pm
L105-BA | Thursdays, January 14 - May 5 | 9:00 - 10:15 am

LEVEL A2
L150-BA | Mondays, January 11 - May 2 | 6:15 - 7:30 pm
$220 / $205 members

LEVEL B
L200-BA | Tuesdays, January 12 - May 3 | 6:15 - 7:30 pm

LEVEL C
L205-BA | Thursdays, January 14 - May 5 | 10:30 - 11:45 am

LEVEL D
L300-BA | Wednesdays, January 13 - April 20 | 7:00 - 8:15 pm
$220 / $205 members

LEVEL E
L405-BA | Thursdays, January 14 - May 5 | 6:15 - 7:30 pm

LEVEL F
L500-BA | Tuesdays, January 12 - May 3 | 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW
L505-BA | Thursdays, January 14 - May 5 | 7:30 - 8:45 pm

PRAYERBOOK HEBREW
L100A-BA | Wednesdays, January 13 - April 20 | 5:45 - 7:00 pm
$220 / $205 members

Modern Hebrew With Mira Peretz
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

BEGINNING 1B
L100-BJ | Wednesdays, February 10 - April 13 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm
$175 / $160 members

INTERMEDIATE 2B
L200-BJ | Wednesdays, February 10 - April 13 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm
$175 / $160 members

Modern Hebrew With Niri Zach
JCCSF, San Francisco
Check lehrhaus.org for spring Hebrew classes beginning the week of March 22.

LEVEL I
L150A-SJ | Tuesdays, January 5 - March 8 | 10:15 - 11:45 am
$175 / $160 members

LEVEL II
L250A-SJ | Tuesdays, January 5 - March 8 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm
$175 / $160 members

LEVEL III
L350A-SJ | Wednesdays, January 6 - March 9 | 10:15 - 11:45 am
$175 / $160 members

LEVEL IV
L450A-SJ | Wednesdays, January 6 - March 9 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm
$175 / $160 members

LEVEL V
L500A-SJ | Thursdays, January 7 - March 10 | 6:15 - 7:45 pm
$200 / $185 members

Learn about Tikva Farber’s online foundation courses for reading Hebrew at hebrewwithtikva.com.
Prayerbook/Biblical Hebrew With Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley

(Online Option – all levels)

Co-sponsored by Congregations Netivot Shalom, Beth El, and Beth Israel

BEGINNING 1A-B

This class introduces students to all the basic elements of prayerbook Hebrew: the alphabet, vowels, vocabulary, sight-reading skills, and basic grammar. You’ll learn some of the key prayerbook melodies and discuss the meaning of the prayers. This course also provides a strong grammatical basis and some of the vocabulary for modern Israeli Hebrew.

Required text: Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way is available for sale at Afikomen Judaica. Please purchase the book before the first class.

L100AB-NS | Sundays, January 24 - March 20 | 3:00 - 4:55 pm | $130 / $115 members / $95 seniors and students / $85 for fall Hebrew 1A students

INTERMEDIATE 2C

This course will complete our study of basic prayerbook Hebrew, then begin to introduce the more complex verb patterns of classical biblical Hebrew and the irregular verb system, while building Hebrew vocabulary. Students will start translating passages from the Hebrew Bible and learn to use Hebrew research references.

L200C-NS | Sundays, January 24 - March 20 | 5:05 - 6:25 pm | $115 / $95 members / $85 seniors and students

ADVANCED BIBLICAL HEBREW 3: PUNS AND POETRY — WORD PLAY AND WISDOM IN THE BIBLE

Every ancient Near Eastern culture engaged in word play, which was frequently used for allusion, irony, satire, and insight in poetry and wisdom literature. Our class will begin with an introduction to word play in the ancient world, focusing on examples from the Hebrew Bible. Then we’ll translate special selections to explore the genius and humor of our biblical ancestors.

L310-NS | Sundays, January 24 - March 20 | 6:35 - 8:00 pm | $115 / $95 members / $90 seniors and students

Lehrhaus Online Courses

Enjoy your course live in the classroom, live online, or anytime via full video recording, all at no extra cost. So learn your way!
Co-sponsored by JCC East Bay and KlezCalifornia

**Beginning Yiddish 1B**
A Lek (lick) and a Shmek (taste) of Yiddish

Ken Blady

This class is a continuation from the fall semester. Learn this rich and colorful language in a relaxed, irreverent and heimisheh atmosphere. All you need is some zitz-fleish (butt + patience), an ardent desire to learn, an interest in Jewish culture, and an ability zu veren tzeshussen fahr gelechter (to crack up).

Drawing from the lesson plans of Sheva Zucker and Marvin Zuckerman’s useful texts, stress in this class will be placed on learning the alef beis (print and script), elementary grammar, and reading basic texts. Emphasis will be placed on interactive conversation among students (almost) entirely in Yiddish in order to develop the ability to form sentences for basic needs when conversing with Yiddish speakers.

**Winter**
L155-BJ | Mondays, January 25 - April 18 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | $175 / $160 members
Lehrhaus Judaica, Berkeley

L150-BJ | Mondays, January 25 - April 18 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $175 / $160 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

**Spring**
L155A-BJ | Mondays, May 2 - June 27 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | $125 / $110 members
Lehrhaus Judaica, Berkeley

L150A-BJ | Mondays, May 2 - June 27 | 7:00 - 8:30 | $125 / $110 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

**Intermediate Yiddish**
Ken Blady

This is a continuation class that started meeting in 2012 at the beginning level. New students are welcome but must have some background in Yiddish, including knowledge of the alef-beys, or done previous coursework in the Yiddish language.

**Winter**
L250-BJ | Wednesdays, January 27 - April 6 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $175 / $160 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

**Spring**
L250A-BJ | Wednesdays, May 4 - July 6 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | $175 / $160 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley

**Reading Yiddish Texts**
Yael Chaver, Ph.D.

We will read and discuss selections of Yiddish prose and poetry from the 19th and 20th centuries. The class will focus on comprehension, based not only on the lexicon and syntax of the Yiddish language, but also on the cultural contexts in which the texts are embedded. Given the relatively late prevalence of standardized spelling in Yiddish, some texts will be studied in their 19th and early 20th-century versions to provide practice and develop confidence in decoding non-standard orthography.

Prerequisite: Students should have completed at least a year of college-level Yiddish language or the equivalent.

L350-BJ | Mondays, January 25 - May 2 | 7:15 - 9:15 pm | $240 / $225 members
JCC East Bay, Berkeley
Be on the lookout for an expanded spring/summer catalog in late March.

Highlights

• 500th Anniversary of the Jewish Ghetto of Venice exhibition and programs at the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco
• Yom HaShoah: Day of Learning and Observance at the JCCSF
• Torah scholar and author Avivah Zornberg at Congregation Etz Chayim in Palo Alto
• Programs in conjunction with The Contemporary Jewish Museum and the Berkeley Repertory Theatre
• Racial Justice, Racial Equity at the JCC East Bay
• Hebrew and Yiddish around the Bay
Student Information
For additional students, copy information on a separate sheet. Use the Student #2 line only for the same address.

First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________
First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________
Street Address __________________________ City __________________________ Zip __________
Home Phone __________ Cell Phone __________ Email _____________________________________

☐ I wish to receive Lehrhaus Judaica’s e-newsletter.

I heard about the course(s) I am taking from… (check all that apply)
☐ Catalog mailed to my house ☐ Catalog picked up at __________________________
☐ Flyer ☐ E-newsletter ☐ Ad (where?) __________________________
☐ Temple newsletter ☐ Website ☐ Friend ☐ Rabbi ☐ Other __________________________

Course Enrollment  Courses with insufficient pre-enrollment may be cancelled.

Questions? 510-845-6420 or info@lehrhaus.org / No course code? Check lehrhaus.org for instructions. I am eligible for the following tuition discounts, if available for the course(s) I have chosen:
☐ Co-sponsor member (where?)  ☐ Learning for Life (age 65+)  ☐ Full-time student
☐ I am applying for a need-based scholarship. (For a scholarship form, please call 510-845-6420 ext. 10.)

Course Code __________________________ Title __________________________ $ __________
Course Code __________________________ Title __________________________ $ __________
Course Code __________________________ Title __________________________ $ __________

Tax-deductible donation to help underwrite Lehrhaus’ courses and library $ __________

Total $ __________

Payment Information

NOTE: Lehrhaus Judaica accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

Payment method: ☐ Visa / Mastercard / AmEx / Discover ☐ Check enclosed (payable to Lehrhaus Judaica)
Credit Card Information:
Card Type _______ Expiration Date ________ Credit Card # _____________________________________
Security Code _______ Signature __________________________________________

Mail your completed form and payment to: Lehrhaus Judaica, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. You may also register on the web: lehrhaus.org, by phone: 510-845-6420, or via fax: 510-845-6446.

NOTE: Lehrhaus does not send confirmation of enrollment. If you require confirmation, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or ☐ check here to request confirmation via e-mail.
Join the Lehrhaus Legacy Family
Keep Jewish education vibrant for generations.

Your commitment to the Jewish community is evident in everything you do — the responsibility you take, the difference you make, and the values you teach and practice.

Now, you can extend your commitment and strengthen the Jewish future.

Lehrhaus is your community school. We exist to serve you, to fulfill our commitment to lifelong learning, and to create a family of students who fully develop their Jewish identities. You can help guarantee a Jewish community that both knows and celebrates its rich and enduring heritage.

By joining the Lehrhaus Legacy Family, you will be doing your part to ensure that the Bay Area always has bountiful Jewish learning opportunities and that our community is strong for generations.

Since 1974, Lehrhaus has served more than 130,000 students, with hundreds of gifted instructors serving as our faculty. Today, our teachers touch the lives of over 4,000 students annually in the Bay Area and online.

Lehrhaus is a member of Create a Jewish Legacy, a partnership of East Bay agencies, synagogues, and day schools dedicated to securing the Jewish future through legacy giving. Create a Jewish Legacy is sponsored by The Jewish Federation of the East Bay, The Jewish Community Foundation, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

You may also make legacy gifts to Lehrhaus through the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, custodian of the Lehrhaus endowment.

For more information, contact Julie Bernstein Klein at 510-845-6420, ext. 15 or julie@lehrhaus.org.

Lehrhaus Legacy Family
(as of December 8, 2015)
Rabbi Ruth Adar and Linda Burnett
Martin and Judy Aufhauser
Eve Bernstein and Alex Gersznowicz
Marci and Marc Dollinger
Jehon and Jennifer Grist
Gerald Hurwitz and Susan Borkin
Moses and Susan Libitzky
Vernita Lyons and William Spears
Fred Rosenbaum and Dorothy Shipps
Dr. and Mrs. Bertram Silver
Howard Simon and Vivien Igra
Rebecca and Peretz Wolf-Prusan
Anonymous (2)
Walking in the Valley of the Shadow

Bible Circle: The Text in Its World
Online Option

Prelude to Rabin
Online Option

Germany/Austria
Sold Out
New tours announced in 2016

lehrhaus.org