

Lehrhaus  
Judaica

JEWISH LEARNING SINCE 1974

Winter | 2018  
5778



Fearless Jewish Learning

[lehrhaus.org](http://lehrhaus.org)

## Dear Friends of Lehrhaus,

Welcome to our winter 2018 catalog! Our upcoming programs include: regional days of learning, our multi-session experience, "Walking in the Valley of the Shadow," which addresses the challenging issues surrounding death and dying; courses in Hebrew and Yiddish; introduction to Judaism, online study, and our photo essay exhibition on the diversity of Bay Area Jewry.

As you will discover, we are extending our reach by venturing into Sacramento and Davis. Additionally, we invite you to travel with us to Israel in April and to the Balkans in August. I am also excited to start teaching for Lehrhaus. Please join me for "How to Read the Bible" at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, and I will be leading a session at Jewbilee on January 28 at the Addison-Penzak JCC in Los Gatos.

Visit us online at [lehrhaus.org](http://lehrhaus.org) for more information.

In order to make better use of our resources, to reduce our ecological footprint, and to enable more flexibility in creating our programs, we have downsized our print catalog. But no worries! While this catalog has fewer pages, Lehrhaus' learning opportunities are as robust as ever. **All of our offerings can be found at [lehrhaus.org](http://lehrhaus.org).** Our website has descriptions of courses, faculty bios, and video introductions. Be sure to check online, periodically, to discover new opportunities for learning.

Student-centered. Flexible. Dialogical. Low cost, yet high quality. In your neighborhood and online, Lehrhaus Judaica offers compelling opportunities for personal growth and communal engagement. **This is Fearless Jewish Learning.** Join us!



Rabbi Jeremy S. Morrison  
Executive Director



## How to Read the Bible: Bridging the Gap Between Ourselves and Our Inherited Texts

Rabbi Jeremy S. Morrison, Ph.D.

To many contemporary readers, the Bible often feels impenetrable and outdated, principally because of the manner in which Jewish texts have been taught in religious schools for generations. This course will explore methods for reading the Bible that are central to liberal Judaism's orientations to reading sacred texts, but are not frequently utilized in synagogue settings.

Thursdays, January 25 - February 15  
7:00 - 9:00 pm | \$60 / \$40 members  
Congregation Beth El, Berkeley

Full Range of Topics at  
[Lehrhaus.org](http://Lehrhaus.org)

Arts

Contemporary Issues

Hebrew/Yiddish

History

Interfaith

Introduction to Judaism

Philosophy

and much more!

## Create Your Jewish Legacy



Contact Julie Bernstein Klein to remember Lehrhaus with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. [julie@lehrhaus.org](mailto:julie@lehrhaus.org) or (510) 845-6420 ext. 115



Lehrhaus is co-presenting three days of learning around the Bay.



Maha Elgenaidi



Peretz Wolf-Prusan

## The Feast of Jewish Learning

### True Grit: Jewish Resilience in Times of Adversity

Feed your mind and spirit at The Feast of Jewish Learning, the community-wide smorgasbord of all things Jewish presented by Lehrhaus, SPARE, and Jewish LearningWorks. Select from a wide range of sessions on texts, arts, ethics and more led by outstanding Jewish teachers. The Feast opens with Havdallah, followed by two sessions of your choice, and closes with an after party.

**Saturday, January 20 | 7:00 - 11:00 pm**  
**Free, suggested donation**  
**Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills**



## Tikkun Leyl Shavuot San Francisco

Attendees may take part in traditional late-night Torah study sessions taught by rabbis and scholars from every denomination. Study sessions organized by Lehrhaus will take place at Congregation Sherith Israel, Congregation Emanu-El and the JCCSF. Congregation Chevra Thilim co-leads the concluding program at Congregation Beth Sholom.

**Saturday, May 19 | 5:30 pm - 12:00 am**  
**Free study sessions / low cost vegetarian dinner**  
**JCCSF and Congregations Sherith Israel, Emanu-El, and Beth Sholom, San Francisco**

## Jewbilee

Rabbi Jeremy S. Morrison, Ph.D., Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan, Maha Elgenaidi, Prof. Fred Astren, Yosef Rosen, Ph.D., and Abra Greenspan will combine to teach a Lehrhaus track at the annual celebration of Jewish learning. Participants choose from a variety of classes, workshops, and performances on this year's theme: ReJEWvenation.

Lehrhaus workshops include:

### Rabbi Jeremy S. Morrison, Ph.D.

"It is a Tree of Life to Those who Grasp It" (Prov. 3:18): The Centrality of Myth and Metaphor in the Evolution of Our Religious Selves

### Maha Elgenaidi and Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan

Revealing Texts: A Muslim and a Jew, Their Sacred Texts, Looking at Jerusalem/AI-Quds

### Prof. Fred Astren

The Meaning of the Golden Age of Jews in Spain

**Sunday, January 28 | 1:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**\$5 - \$15**  
**Addison-Penzak JCC, Los Gatos**



## Walking in the Valley of the Shadow

Lehrhaus, the Gamlie Institute, Sinai Memorial Chapel, and the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center will address the challenging issues surrounding death and dying. The sessions are open to all ages because death and grief have no age limits. Register for the topics that are relevant to you.

### Making Choices: Advance Directives and Planning a Funeral

This session will demystify advance planning, ethical wills, and ethical dilemmas: extending life, organ donation, genetic testing, abortion, autopsy, and stem cell usage.

### Dying/Death/Burial: What Jews Do

Become confident and comfortable with: Vidui (the Jewish way of last words), Jewish laws, customs and traditions about dying, performing taharah (preparing the body), the funeral service, and issues concerning burial and cremation.

### The Art of Comfort

Judaism provides much needed guidance for family, friends and caregivers when visiting the sick and consoling the bereaved. It helps one know what to say and what not to say.

### Mourning and Grief: After the Death

We will address Kaddish basics, what the Jewish tradition says about mourning, grief and memory, and how to gather community support. We will create a safe place to share special cases of death such as stillbirth, neonatal, sudden, and traumatic.

"I like the balance between presentation and audience engagement. Rabbi Peretz made us feel comfortable to share personal experiences, which made it seem very relevant, very real."

— 2016-17 Walking in the Valley student

## When Life Is Over: Where Is Your Soul? Jewish Perspectives on the Afterlife

We will survey the diverse range of Jewish conceptions of the soul, the afterlife, resurrection, and reincarnation. We will reflect on big questions at the end of life.

\$10 each session

Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco  
Tuesdays, February 6 - March 13

Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton  
Tuesdays, March 6 - April 3

Congregation Etz Chayim, Palo Alto  
Tuesdays, April 10 - May 8

Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City  
Thursdays, April 26 - May 31

## Extremis Film and Discussion With Dr. Jessica Nutik Zitter

The 2017 Oscar-nominated film *Extremis* is a heart-wrenching documentary that follows Jessica Zitter, her team and their patients as they grapple with urgent end-of-life medical decision-making.

Sunday, January 21 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm | Free  
Temple Isaiah, Lafayette

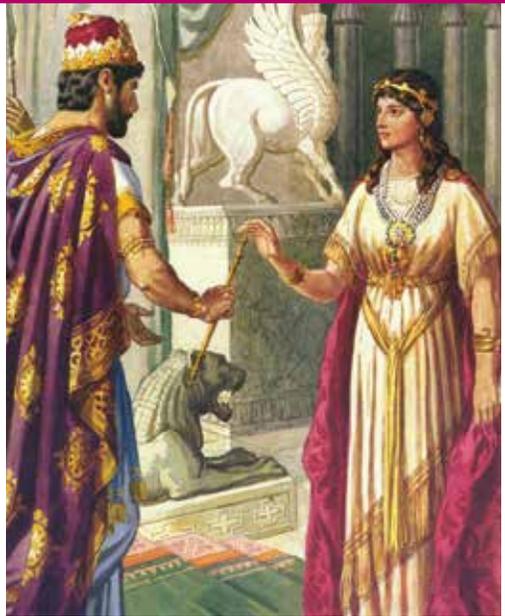


Jessica Nutik Zitter



"The Lehrhaus classes on Heschel have helped me refine the spiritual underpinnings of my social justice beliefs and actions."

— 2017 Heschel/Philosophy Circle participant



## Heschel and Social Justice

*"When I marched in Selma, I felt like my legs were praying."*

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

In honor of Heschel's contributions to Jewish learning and the social justice imperative that defines him, Lehrhaus is excited to offer a three-part course exploring this fundamental aspect of Heschel's life and Judaism. The fall focused on foundations.

**Religious Activism — starts in January**  
**Outrage, War, and Economics — starts in February**

\$85 each session

**Rabbi Camille Angel**  
 Mondays | 7:30 - 9:00 pm  
 JCCSF, San Francisco

**Rabbi Sheldon Lewis**  
 Mondays | 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 Congregation Etz Chayim, Palo Alto

**Yosef Rosen, Ph.D.**  
 Wednesdays | 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 Congregations B'nai Shalom and  
 B'nai Tikvah, Walnut Creek  
 Thursdays | 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 JCC East Bay, Berkeley

**Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan**  
 Mondays | 7:30 - 9:00 pm  
 Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael  
 Wednesdays and Thursdays | 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
 Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa

## The Book of Esther

(Online Option)

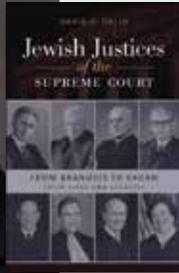
Esther's story is exciting, romantic and disturbing. Set in the lavish court of the Persian king 2,400 years ago, this tale takes readers through the dramatic ups and downs of our heroine. It also provides an early example of the anti-Semitism that has threatened the Jewish people ever since. But is there actual history in this story? And why did many ancient Jews and Christians oppose its addition to the biblical Canon? Our course will travel through the text in English translation and also explore the world of Esther during the Persian Empire.

**Rabbi Ruth Adar**  
 Tuesdays, February 6 - March 6  
 7:00 - 8:30 pm | \$50 / \$40 members  
 Temple Sinai, Oakland

**Jehon Grist, Ph.D.**  
 Wednesdays, February 7 - March 7  
 7:00 - 8:30 pm | \$40 / \$35 members  
 Congregation B'nai Israel, Vallejo



David Dalin



## David Dalin: *Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court, From Brandeis to Kagan*

David Dalin's new book examines the lives, legal careers, and Jewish legacies of the eight Jews who have served or who currently serve as justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. *The Presidents of the United States and the Jews*, co-written in 2000, is one of Dalin's 12 books.

### Presidents Presentation

Saturday, April 14 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm | Free  
Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills

### Supreme Court Justices Presentations / Book Signings

Sunday, April 15 | 1:30 - 3:00 pm | Free  
Jewish Community Library, San Francisco  
Monday, April 16 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | Free  
Mosaic Law Congregation, Sacramento

## Wisdom in the Wine: Making, Using (and Abusing) It in the Biblical World

### Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

Whether you're an enologist or just like a good glass, this session will introduce you to your counterparts from 3,000 years ago. We'll explore how wines were made in ancient Egypt, Israel and elsewhere. We'll also learn about the best wines (and some of the worst) and where they originated. There will be a colorful visit to an ancient wine party or two. Finally, we'll look at what the ancients had to say about enjoying wine, both enough and too much! The session will be followed by a wine tasting featuring the region's finest vintages.

Register: [tinyurl.com/ancientwines](http://tinyurl.com/ancientwines) by February 1

Saturday, February 3 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Free presentation / wine tasting: \$10 in advance / \$15 at the door  
Congregation B'nai Israel, Sacramento

Register: [office@bethaverim.org](mailto:office@bethaverim.org)

Saturday, February 24 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm | \$18

Congregation Bet Haverim, Davis



## This Is Bay Area Jewry January 8 – March 31 Congregation Beth El, Berkeley

Lehrhaus and Building Jewish Bridges present a photo essay exhibition showcasing the range of diversity in our community. The exhibition, which launched in April 2016, features intimate portraits of individuals and families from a variety of backgrounds and levels of religious observance — from the North and South Peninsulas, San Francisco, Oakland/Berkeley, Contra Costa, and Marin. Individuals born Jewish and converts, interfaith families, LGBT Jews, and multicultural Jews all take center stage. The exhibition is slowly growing with two new profiles being unveiled at Beth El.

Check [lehrhaus.org](http://lehrhaus.org) for opening event details.

## Israel at 70: An Ancient and Modern Adventure

(Online Option)

Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

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.

**Thursdays, March 8 - 15 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm**  
**\$35 / Free for Israel at 70 tour participants**  
 Lehrhaus Judaica, Albany

## Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew 3: The Book of Esther

(Online Option)

Jehon Grist, Ph.D.

We will translate and analyze selected passages from this amazing story, visiting both the ancient Persian Empire and additional versions of the text to discover how Esther's tale developed and what its meaning is for us today. Note: Beginning (3 pm) and intermediate (5:05 pm) levels of the course are also available in class or online.

**Sundays, January 28 - March 25**  
**6:35 - 8:00 pm | \$125 / \$105 members / \$95 seniors and students**  
 Lehrhaus Judaica, Albany

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

## Traditions of Continuity and Diversity (Online Option)

Bruce Bramlett

Jews and Christians claim that they share a common historical lineage, although this is often felt to be an uncomfortable fact. It has also been said that there has never been a real Jewish-Christian dialogue because of the millennia-old struggle between them. This course will attempt to provide an overview of the growth of the rabbinic tradition and of classical Christianity within the context of the Greco-Roman world.

**Tuesdays, February 20 - March 13**  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm | \$60 / \$45 members**  
 Lehrhaus Judaica, Albany

## Introduction to the Jewish Experience (Online Only)

Rabbi Ruth Adar

The course is also offered in person at Temple Sinai on Wednesday evenings.

### Winter: Israel and Texts

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. We will also take a look at the specter of anti-Semitism.

**Sundays, January 21 - March 11**  
**3:30 - 5:00 pm PT | \$90**

### Spring: Traditions of Judaism

We will study the varieties of Judaism in the 21st century, including expressions that go back to the Middle Ages (Ashkenazi, Sephardic, and Mizrahi) and modern movements (Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Renewal).

**Sundays, April 8 - June 3**  
**3:30 - 5:00 pm PT | \$90**



Ruth Adar

Lehrhaus Judaica

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Albany, CA 94706

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## Israel at 70 Celebration: Achievements, Challenges, and Ancient Treasures

**April 9-20**  
**Petra, Eilat, and Tel Aviv Extension:**  
**April 20-25**

This adventure offers you exciting new locations, fresh insights and over 3,000 years of discovery, past and present. Areas of discovery include: Israel as the "start-up nation," Shabbat in Jerusalem, Israeli Jewish and Arab partnerships, home hospitality in Druze villages, and the world of ancient Israel and legendary Petra.

**Traveling Scholars:** Jehon Grist, Ph.D. and Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan

**Tour Director:** Ariel Goldstein

**More details on both tours:** [ariel@tiyuljewishjourneys.com](mailto:ariel@tiyuljewishjourneys.com) or 510-833-5854

*Supported by the Ingrid D. Tauber Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund*



## Crossroads of Four Cultures: Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Slovenia

**August 17-29**  
**Pre-tour Extension to Vienna:**  
**August 15-17**

Immerse yourself in the compelling history and scenic beauty of the Western Balkans — where Jews co-existed with Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Muslims for almost half a millennium. We will visit such enthralling cities as Sarajevo, Dubrovnik, Ljubljana, Mostar, and Zagreb, and natural wonders such as Lake Bled and the Plitvice Lakes and Waterfalls.

**Traveling Scholar:** Fred Rosenbaum

**Tour Director:** Ariel Goldstein

**lehrhaus.org**