



עץ חיים

Etz Hayim

Congregation

5778 ADULT EDUCATION

"The Ethical Life"

Guest Speakers

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"The Ethical Life" is an Adult Education curriculum prepared by the Jewish Theological Seminary, the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism. This curriculum provides an opportunity to discuss complex issues through the lens of Jewish ethics. From political and financial scandals, to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of ethical and moral concern. Judaism has a long history of wrestling with moral questions and responding to them in a way that considers all sides of an issue. Sessions will be facilitated by Rabbi Bass and Laura Naide. Class dates and descriptions are on Page 2.

Liat Lisha

On **Sunday, February 4, 2018**, Liat Lisha will teach a class on the Israeli Intelligence Community including the Mossad Legacy and Liat's personal service in the IDF's 8200 Intelligence Unit. Liat is our current NOVA Shlichah (Israel Emissary). She was born and raised in Ashdod, Israel to a family of Moroccan Arab descent. Prior to joining our community as Shlichah, she worked in Tel Aviv as a Web Fraud Content Analyst for IBM, and for the non-profit She-Codes, a group that aims to bring gender equality to the Israeli hi-tech industry. Liat served as an Intelligence Analyst in the IDF for three years, and was the head of an intelligence team of 12 soldiers.

Laura Kumin

On **Sunday, February 11, 2018**, Laura Kumin will teach a class entitled "Foods of Purim Around the World." Laura is a food writer, cooking coach, and the creator of Mother Would Know.com, a website that encourages and helps readers to become confident home cooks. Laura taught a "Jews and Food" module to our 8th & 9th Graders last Spring during which they learned to prepare a variety of kugels and other delicious food.

Mike Stein

On **Sunday, April 29, 2018**, Mike Stein will teach a class on how to chant the Trope of the Torah and Haftarah to those interested in learning how to participate in that part of the service. Mike has been a member of Etz Hayim since 1991, and has held a number of offices including President. He is a frequent service leader and Torah reader, as well as a B'nai Mitzvah tutors. When not in shul, he is a software engineer and semiprofessional cellist.

JUDAISM, FOLKLORE AND FEMINISM

On three upcoming Saturdays (**Nov. 4, Dec. 2, and Jan. 6**), Sharon Separ will lead a discussion group about Judaism, Folklore and Feminism during Kiddush lunch. Sharon, a CEH congregant since 1996, is a senior executive attorney with the Federal government who

earned her Master's Certificate in Folklore at George Mason University in December 2016. Sharon's research at GMU, which she continues to pursue in a full MFA-Creative Writing program, focuses on both Jewish and feminist themes in the fields

of folklore and ethnography. Sharon will bring her passion for Judaism, folklore, and feminism to our congregation through a study of selections from Ruth Calderon's book: [A Bride for One Night: Talmud Tales.](#)

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*The advancement
of learning is the
highest
commandment.
~Maimonides~*



Sun, October 15, 2017

10:00-11:30 AM

The Centrality of Ethics to Jewish Life: Does Ethics Need God?

Rabbi Bass & Laura Naide

What is the relationship between ethics and religion? If people can act ethically without believing in God, do they need Judaism to live a moral life? Should our quest to lead an ethical life and our responses to the moral challenges posed by contemporary realities be informed by the richness of the Jewish tradition?

Sunday, October 29, 2017

10:00-11:30 AM

Ethics and Halakhah, Aggadah, and a Feminine Approach

Rabbi Bass & Laura Naide

When faced with an ethical issue, Jewish ethicists respond using a variety of methods, texts, and presuppositions about precedent and authority. This unit provides participants with a brief overview of some of these approaches while creating space for a discussion about the merits and drawbacks of each.

Sunday, November 12, 2017

10:00 -11:30 AM

"The Ethical Dimensions of Food Production"

Laura Naide

Eating has never been a neutral activity. In this unit, we will explore how Jewish teachings can provide insight into how to make ethical choices about food.

Sunday, November 19, 2017

10:00-11:30 AM

"Fracking: A Case Study in the Ethics of Neighborly Relations"

Rabbi Bass

Jewish sources, such as aggadic and halakhic material, have balanced the rights of property owners with the claims of their neighbors. These sources establish a hierarchy of values that can guide Jewish decision-making on a range of contemporary environmental issues, from noise and air pollution to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking").

Sunday, January 7, 2018

10:00-11:30 AM

"Is Teshuvah Possible? Re-thinking Mass Incarceration"

Rabbi Bass

In this unit, participants learn through traditional sources that highlight Judaism's moral approach to the punishment and rehabilitation of individuals who have committed crimes. Participants will consider whether current imprisonment practices are compatible with the values embedded in these texts.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

10:00-11:30 AM

"Modern Day Slavery and Our Ethical Responsibility"

Rabbi Bass

Today more than 21 million people worldwide remain trapped in some form of servitude. Participants will trace

attitudes toward slavery in Jewish texts and explores the specific role of the consumer in perpetuating systems of economic oppression. Together we will contemplate our ethical responsibility towards the victims of slavery and human trafficking, and consider ways to enact Judaism's ethical ideals in the face of an extremely complex reality.

Sunday, March 4, 2018

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

"Disability and the Ethics of Inclusion"

Laura Naide

While disabilities are varied and not easy to classify, one common thread is that exclusion looms large in the lives of the disabled and those who care for them. The unit will encourage participants to think deeply about and discuss together how we can create the conditions whereby all can share fully in the religious and social life of the Jewish community.

Sunday, March 18, 2018

10:00-11:30 AM

"Is Lying ever Ethical?"

Rabbi Bass

Exodus 23:7 states, "Keep far from a false charge" – but are there instances when it is considered ethical to engage in deception or to create a false impression? This unit introduces participants to a range of views on whether lying is ever ethical, with a specific focus on biblical and Talmudic material.

Guest Speakers

Sunday, February 4, 2018

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

The Israeli Intelligence Community
Liat Lisha



The Israeli Intelligence Community has gained respect and recognition all over the world. Who is the intelligence community? What are its areas of activity, how was it established and what were the defining events in its history? How is it organized? Who were/are its leaders?

Sunday, February 11, 2018

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Foods of Purim Around the World
Laura Kumin



Journey around the world without leaving the classroom. Join Laura Kumin on a culinary tour of Purim celebrations. We will explore how Jews around the world celebrate the story, talk about little known aspects of the Purim story, and taste Purim specialties.

Sunday, April 29th, 2018,

10:00—11:30 AM

How to Chant Torah and Haftarah
Mike Stein



Are you curious about how to read the Torah and Haftarah Trope (chanting)? This is a class for novices and experienced chanters alike. Learn about the rules, reasons and procedures for chanting the Torah and Haftarah. A basic knowledge of reading Hebrew is necessary.

SHABBATON WITH RABBI WATTS BELSER

Join us for a weekend of wonderful learning opportunities on **December 9th-10th, 2017**, with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser.

On Saturday, immediately following Kiddush, Rabbi Watts Belser will teach an interactive text study, "Joseph, Dreams, and Dreamers in the Talmud."

On Sunday at 10 AM, she will teach an interactive text study based on her new book, *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem*.

Together, we'll examine how rabbinic stories grapple with Roman brutality and sexual violence—and lay out a striking theological claim: that God suffers with those who experience violence and is present with survivors.

Rabbi Watts Belser is an Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Georgetown University, with expertise in rabbinic literature and Jewish feminist ethics, with a focus on gender, sexuality, and disability studies.

This year, she is a faculty fellow in residence at the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.



*To defend a country,
you need an army.
But to defend
humanity, you need
education.*

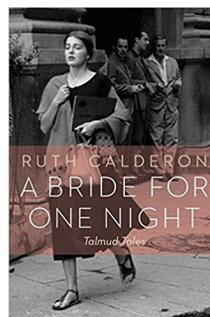
*~Rabbi Lord
Jonathan Sacks~*

SATURDAY LEARNING WITH SHARON SEPAR

(Continued from page 1)

Calderon's book offers a fascinating feminist reworking and reinterpretation of familiar yet strange and fantastic Talmudic tales. Join Sharon in a collaborative study effort to dig deeply into these stories to reveal the feminine face of Judaism and further uncover the relevance of these tales to our lives today.

If you are interested in joining the study group, please purchase a copy a copy of the book or check it out of your public library.



November 11
December 2
January 6

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*Congregation Etz Hayim is a
welcoming spiritual home for our
community, fostering unity and
connection as we journey together
on a path toward holiness.*

OUR ONGOING SHABBAT EDUCATION

Potluck Shabbat – 1st Friday of each month at 6:15 PM. Bring the whole family and invite friends! Immediately following services join our community potluck and chat about topics of interest.

Musical Shabbat – 2nd Friday of each month at 6:15 PM. Bring the kids to enjoy live music and dancing.

9:30 Club Meditation – 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM. Come early for a half hour of learning and meditation. Experience another way to connect with sacred texts more fully enabling a deeper connection to God.

Shabbat Unwrapped – 3rd Friday (6:15 PM) & Saturday (10:00 AM) of the month. Join us as Rabbi Bass unpacks and provides further insight and explanation into the various parts of the service.

9:30 Club Parashat HaShavuah – 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM. Join us as Rabbi Bass provides an in-depth look at the week's Torah portion and rabbinic commentary on the text.

שבת שלום

S h a b b a t S h a l o m !



Routes is a community-wide day of education sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Join fellow learners on **November 5, 2017** at George Mason University for one day devoted to Jewish learning, with thought-provoking sessions designed to nourish your spiritual growth and stimulate your intellectual journey.

Register at: <http://www.shalomdc.org/event/routes>

*Congregation Etz Hayim is proud to present the
Adult Education program for*

5778

(September 2017-June 2018)

Brought to you by

The Jean Kosher Rothstein Memorial Fund

*Congregation Etz Hayim offers ongoing Adult Education programs and events to
members and friends in the community while supporting the Conservative
Movement's motto: "Tradition and Change"*