



עץ חיים

**Etz Hayim**

**Congregation**

5779 ADULT EDUCATION

*Learning,  
Learning,  
Learning:  
That is the  
secret of Jewish  
survival.*

*~Ahad Ha'am ~*

Educational programs often are built around a core theme or “enduring understanding.” Enduring understandings summarize important ideas that have lasting value and can be studied throughout a learner’s life. Our 5779 Adult Education program is built around the following enduring understanding:

**Knowledge of the foundational beliefs and traditional practices of Judaism is essential to leading a meaningful Jewish life.**

Our Adult Education programs will answer questions such as:

- What are the core beliefs of Conservative Judaism?
- What resources are available for Jews who wish to deepen their knowledge and practice of Judaism?
- What traditions are followed by Conservative Jews?
- What is the structure of Conservative tefilla (prayer)?

Our goal is to start an ongoing conversation that engages learners of all ages. Our program includes three days of “all-shul” learning when learners of all ages will study the same topic. On other days, our talented congregants will help us to see Judaism through new lenses such as art, literature, foreign relations and comedy. In December, we’ll host a Shabbaton with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser. In the Spring, we’ll venture out into our community to learn about the history of Judaism in Washington, DC. Throughout the year, Rabbi Bass will lead a series of Lunch and Learn sessions about Jewish prophets starting with the Book of Joshua. Join us for one event or for the full schedule!

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## LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI BASS

Beginning October 18, 2018, bring a vegetarian/dairy lunch, and the Book of Joshua for an in-depth learning of this fascinating text which contains the story of the conquest of Canaan. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, just your desire to

learn! The lunch group meets at CEH the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 12 -1:30 PM. Contact the CEH Office for a copy of the text.



**Sunday, October 21, 2018**

*Learning the Shabbat Morning Service, Part 1.*

*Rabbi Lia Bass*

The Shabbat Morning service is a beautiful progression of parts: Birchot HaShachar, Psukei D'Zimra, Shacharit, Amidah, Torah Service, and Musaf. Whether you've been to 100 Shabbat services or none, you'll gain more from the experience when you understand the order and purpose of the prayer service.

**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

*All-Shul Learning: The Sim Shalom Siddur*

The Conservative prayer book, *Siddur Sim Shalom*, (1985) is the first siddur in which the beliefs and theology of Conservative Judaism were made explicit. It is egalitarian and our version uses gender-sensitive translations of the names of God and provides the option to include the Imahot (matriarchs) in the Amidah. In this All-Shul Learning Day, we will learn about the contents of our siddur and how it contributes to our prayer experience.

**Sunday, November 18, 2018**

*Learning the Shabbat Morning Service, Part 2.*

*Rabbi Lia Bass*

Continue learning about our Saturday morning tradition.

**Sunday, December 2, 2018**

*Jewish Artists in the Smithsonian Museum of American Art SAAM Docent and CEH Member Deborah Kaplan*

Spend an afternoon at a wonderful DC museum. We'll learn about paintings and sculptures created by Eastern European Jews who immigrated to the U.S. between 1880 and 1920. What styles and skills did they bring with them from Europe? How did artistic and social trends in early 20th-century America affect their works? \*\* This event runs from 2-4 PM and starts and ends at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. There is a maximum of 30 attendees. RSVP to office@etzhayim.net.

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

*Equality Virginia*

*Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau*

Embrace all of our neighbors by engaging in dialogue with a member of the Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau. Our speaker will help us build a better understanding of transgender life experiences through storytelling and open, candid dialogue.

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

*Jewish History—The Last 175 Years, Part 1.*

*Noam Vinokor*

Our first history session will cover Jewish history starting in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will cover the Haskalah movement's attempt to bring Judaism out of the Ghetto and the various new religious movements that arose in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and redefined modern Judaism. Our discussion will continue up to the mass emigration from Russia. We will also explore the history of American Jewry during this period.

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

*Jewish History—The Last 175 Years, Part 2.*

*Noam Vinokor*

Our second session will cover the first half of the 20th century. We will discuss Zionism and its primary opponent, the Jewish-Socialist Bund movement, the rise of fascism in Europe, the Holocaust and the formation of the State of Israel. We will also touch upon the relationship between the US and Israel.

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

*All-Shul Learning: Shabbat*

"More than the Jews have kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jews." The Jewish people are commanded to observe Shabbat and keep it holy. How does observing Shabbat bring meaning to our lives? What are we permitted to do and what are the restrictions? All ages will learn about the day of rest. You may even create a new tradition or ritual object.

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

*History of the Conservative Movement: What are we Conserving?*

*Rabbi Lia Bass & Laura Naide*

Conservative Judaism fully institutionalized as a denomination only in the United States during the mid-20th century. What happened that resulted in a new Jewish denomination? What does the "Trefah Banquet" have to do with anything? What does it mean that Conservative Judaism views Jewish law (halakha) as both binding and subject to historical development? Come learn how Conservative Judaism started and how it fits into today's Jewish landscape.

**Saturday, March 2, 2019 (EVENING PROGRAM)**

*Jewish Comedy: Why Are We So Funny?*

*Adam Cohen & Ron Rosenberg*

Enjoy an evening of Jewish comedy! We'll go on a two-hour journey that spans Groucho Marx, Gertrude Berg, Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Sarah Silverman, and more. Using an entertaining mix of video, lively discussion, and interactive quiz games, we will explore the origins of Jewish comedy, what makes Jewish comedy unique and different, what comedy offers society, and whether there are limits to humor. Laughter, education, fun, and a glass of wine/beer – what's not to like? Note: This evening is for mature audiences (ages 14+) and has been rated PG-OY VEY! by the Etz Hayim Film Institute.

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

*All-Shul Learning: Kashrut*

The term "Kashrut" refers to the Jewish dietary laws. Food that may be consumed according to Jewish law is termed "kosher." What is the Conservative movement's approach to kashrut? No matter what your kashrut practices are, come learn about the fascinating history of kashrut and why it is meaningful to contemporary Jews.

**\*\* Unless otherwise noted, all Sunday programs run from 10:15 AM—11:45 AM in the CEH Sanctuary.\*\***

**Sunday, March 24, 2019**

*The Relationship Between China and Israel*  
Howard Shatz

Relations between China and Israel have expanded rapidly since the early 2000s in areas such as diplomacy, trade, investment, construction, educational partnerships, scientific cooperation, and tourism. China's prime interests in Israel are advanced technology and its location as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. Israel seeks to expand its ties with the world's fastest growing major economy, and diversify its export markets and investments from the United States and Europe. Although evolving relations with China present Israel with important opportunities, they also pose a variety of challenges. Chief among these are (1) potential threats to Israel's own security, because of China's relations with hostile powers, and (2) potential challenges to Israel's relationship with its most important partner, the US. Howard Shatz will discuss these issues as well as potential policy directions for Israel.

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

*Walking Tour of Jewish Washington. Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington*

Learn what Jewish life and worship was like in the historic Seventh Street, NW, neighborhood from 1850 to 1950. The tour includes visiting the sites of four former synagogues. \*\*This event starts at 2 PM at the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum, 701 Third Street, NW (corner of G Street) and ends at 816 8th St., NW. Washington, D.C. RSVP required to [office@etzhayim.net](mailto:office@etzhayim.net).



SHABBATON WITH  
RABBI JULIA WATTS BELSER

Saturday, December 8 after services.  
**Dreams and Dreamers in the Babylonian Talmud**

Jewish tradition offers fascinating stories and provocative counsel about the promise of dreams—and about the power of interpretation to shape the way we understand our lives. In this session, we'll examine classical Jewish texts about dreams and dream interpretation to consider the way dreams invite us to reflect on meaning, metaphor, and spiritual life.

Sunday, December 9 at 10:15 AM.

**The Generation of the Flood: Rabbinic Tales of Cleverness, Catastrophe and Climate Change**

Can classic Jewish texts help us grapple with contemporary challenges like natural disaster, environmental crisis, and climate change? In this class, we'll read and discuss rabbinic stories of Noah and the generation of the Flood to draw out Jewish insights about the habits of the heart that lead us into environmental trouble—and consider ways to better support and shelter each other amidst the coming storms.

**Rabbi Julia Watts Belser** is an associate professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Georgetown University. Her research centers on Talmud, rabbinic literature, and Jewish feminist ethics, with particular interests in gender justice, disability studies, and environmental ethics. As a rabbi, she's passionate about building queer and feminist Jewish community, as well as bringing disability culture into conversation with Jewish tradition. Her latest book is *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem* (Oxford University Press, 2018).



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

*~Rabbi Lord  
Jonathan Sacks~*

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Etz Hayim

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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.*

## Tuesday Evening Learning Opportunities

Can't wake up on Sunday? Come to CEH for Tuesday night learning opportunities.

**Tuesday, October 9 , 7-9 PM.** JTS Segal Memorial Lecture. Join us for a livestream lecture from the Jewish Theological Seminary featuring Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU and the author of "HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship." She will touch on themes of particular relevance to the Jewish community, including anti-Semitism and Nazism historically and currently, both in the US and worldwide. Following her presentation, Ms. Strossen and Rabbi Daniel S. Nevins will explore comparative perspectives on hate speech and free speech in American and Jewish law.

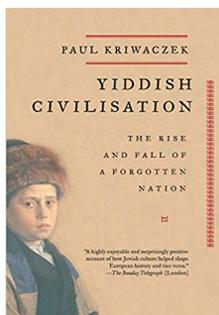
**Tuesday, November 13, 7-9 PM** Neve Shalom. Engage in conversation with members of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam; the only community where equal numbers of Israeli Palestinians and Jews live and educate their children together, bringing their courageous vision to the rest of the country through the work of the Primary School, the School for Peace, the Peace Museum and the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center. Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom is Arabic and Hebrew for *Oasis of Peace*. Co-sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington and Kol Ami.

## SATURDAY LITERATURE EVENTS

Come for services, stay for great literature discussions. After services, CEH congregants will lead discussions about books of particular interest to them. There are copies of each title in the CEH library. These diverse selections are sure to spark lively discussion!

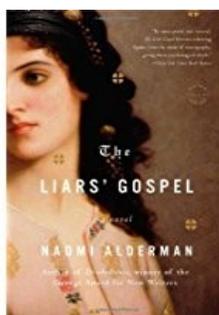
**Saturday, October 20, 2018**

*With Jonathan Greenberg*



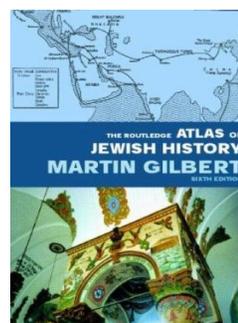
**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

*With Eva Kleederman*



**Saturday, March 16, 2019**

*With Jill Clark-Foulkes*



In addition to these presentations by our congregants, join us on **Saturday, January 12, 2019** to learn with Dr. Edna Friedberg, a fellow at the Jewish Theological Seminary and a historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Friedberg will speak on **What were Jews Reading and Writing in the Ghettos? Literature as Lifeline.**

Congregation Etz Hayim is proud to present the  
Adult Education program for 5779  
(October 2018–May 2019)

Brought to you by  
The Jean Koshar and Samuel Rothstein Memorial Fund