

north shore
congregation israel

ADULT
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
2018-2019

*Hillel taught: Do not say, "When I free myself up,
I will study," for you may never free yourself up.*

— *Pirke Avot 2.5*

In this new year, come & learn!



FRIENDS: Welcome to a rich offering of adult learning opportunities here at NSCI. Whether you are curious about a topic and have never come to a class, come to everything we offer, or somewhere in between, there are chances for you to jump in for a one-time program or for an ongoing course of study. From basics of prayer and Judaism to Talmud study to creating new ritual, to delving into deeper meanings of prayer to exploring questions of Jewish identity and faith, to chanting sacred text, we've got it—and so much more. We offer learning in our NSCI building, out in the community and on the road too. We teach, welcome stellar teachers familiar and new to join us, and we proudly partner with wonderful community organizations.

Please take a look at these pages, find something you'd like to check out and sign up—come and learn! Try something new, or continue to learn something you love. Come by yourself or, bring a friend or a family member. Learn with us. We can't wait to learn with you!

YEAR-ROUND LEARNING



MIDDAY MONDAYS

Mondays | 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Midday Mondays opens the door to myriad topics—music, literature, current events— who knows! Midday Mondays includes mini-series taught in multi-week increments and offered at different times throughout the year. These sessions

will be taught by Rabbi Greene, Rabbi Daniels, Cantor Goldstein, Dr. Goodman, Buddy Schreiber and other guest teachers.

JUDAISM’S “20 QUESTIONS”

Buddy Schreiber

October, 8, 15, 29

“Is it okay to be angry with God?”, “What good does prayer do?” “Do I have to love my neighbor, always?” Explore these tough to answer inquiries through the Jewish lens.

THE WANDERING JEW:

A LOOK AT JEWISH IMMIGRATION ACROSS THE AGES

Dr. Roberta Goodman

**PART I—EARLY YEARS: BABYLONIA, SPANISH INQUISITION,
AND EASTERN EUROPE**

November 5, 12, 19

**PART II—MODERN IMMIGRATION: UNITED STATES,
ISRAEL AND THE HOLOCAUST**

February 4, 11, 25

We earned the name “Wandering Jews” from our history of immigration and have survived and thrived as a people. We will examine some of the major waves of immigration considering why we left, where we went, and what each wave of immigration contributed.

MODERN LIVING: MAINTAINING BALANCE

Rabbi Lisa Greene

December 10, 17, January 14, 28

This four-part course takes a look at a selection of classic and modern Jewish texts from the renowned Florence Melton Adult School curriculum that relate to this contemporary challenge. Participants will discover Jewish wisdom that helps us to balance between the needs and demands of family, work community and self. Sign up for these sessions so that we have sufficient materials, provided by the Melton School. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

(Midday Mondays continued on page 2)

MIDDAY MONDAYS—CONTINUED

WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT JEWISH MUSIC?

Cantor David Goldstein

April 1, 8, 15

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

Rabbi Ryan Daniels

May 6, 13, 20

Why is Jerusalem always in twos?" asked Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. Grammatically, *Yerushalayim*—"Jerusalem"—appears plural, and in ancient narratives and modern commentary about Jerusalem, the city is presented as one of dueling identities. Join Rabbi Daniels to unpack the many divergent Jerusalem narratives, both real and idealized.

CINEMA NSCI

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Monday, October 8, 2018 | 6:30 pm

Monday, November 12, 2018 | 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 5, 2019 | 11:30 am

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 | 11:30 am

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 | 11:30 am

Monday, June 3, 2019 | 6:30 pm



Join fellow movie buffs for viewings of films with Jewish content or connection. Each session includes the film and a brief conversation about it led by Rabbi Geffen. This program is open to the community. Light refreshments are provided at each session. For easier access, please park in the north lot and enter through the north education doors. RSVP encouraged, Susan Ellenby, susane@nsci.org, 847-835-0724.



STUDY THE TALMUD

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Mondays | 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Fall: October 8 - December 17 (no class-Nov. 12, Dec. 10)

Winter: February 4-March 18 (no class-February 18)

Spring: April 8-May 20

Join Rabbi Geffen as we continue the study of Tractate *B'rachot*, the section of the Talmud responsible for establishing what, when, how and why Jews pray the way we do. All are welcome. If you want to purchase your own copy of the Talmud translation we use for class it is *Koren Talmud Bavli, Berachot* by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, available on Amazon.com. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

HOLY CHANTERS

Cantor David Goldstein

Mondays, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Torah: Oct. 8, 15, 29, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 7, 14, Feb. 4, 11

Haftarah: Feb. 25, March 4, April 1, 8, 29



In this class you will learn to chant Torah and Haftarah with the traditional cantillation. Cantor Goldstein teaches Holy Chanters a practical knowledge of cantillation. Students in this class have successfully chanted on Shabbat and holiday services here at NSCI. You, too, can learn to do this! This year's class begins with Torah cantillation in the fall and moves into Haftarah in the spring. A basic knowledge of Hebrew is helpful. RSVP Sarah Duffin, sarahd@nsci.org.

WOMEN OF NSCI BOOK GROUP

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

October 9, 2018 – The Betrayers by David Bezmozgis

(Author to speak at NSCI 10-23-18, 7:00 pm)

November 13, 2018 – Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

December 11, 2018 – The Houseguest by Kim Brooks

January 8, 2019 – The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

February 12, 2019 – Windy City Blues by Renee Rosen

March 12, 2019 – Dinner at the Center of the Earth by Nathan Englander

April 9, 2019 – Threading My Prayer Rug by Sabeeha Rehman

May 14, 2019 – The Last Days of Café Leila by Donia Bijan

June 11, 2019 – Tortilla Curtain by T. C. Boyle



This book group, made up of women of varying ages in our community is sponsored by the Women of NSCI and meets monthly. For more information please contact Judy Falk, judyfalk@comcast.net, or Cindy Aminoff, cinamino@gmail.com.

BEGINNING FALL 2018

LEGACY LETTERS

Carole Mark Gingiss

Thursdays, October 4, 11, 25, November 1, 8, 15 | 10:30 am-12:30 pm



Legacy Letters are letters that share the life lessons and values that made you who you are today, and allow you to pass on those lessons and values to future generations, sharing how you wish to be remembered. Join us in a class that will guide you, step by step, to write your own Legacy Letter, with easy-to-understand handouts throughout the six week session.

Carole Mark Gingiss has successfully taught many students to craft their message. She will share examples of old and modern Legacy Letters, also called Ethical Wills, and give students the tools to create their own lasting treasure for their loved ones. The class is for any age, wherever you are in life. Legacy Letters can be written to a spouse, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends, students or colleagues. Your Legacy Letter can be distributed immediately after it's written, sometime later, or attached to your legal will. How do you want to be remembered? Write your Legacy Letter now and let your loved ones know!

Curious? Talk to Rabbi Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org or contact Carole Mark Gingiss, cmgingiss@att.net. Class size is limited. Registration is required. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

PRAYER FOR BEGINNERS

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Mondays, October 15, 22, 29 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

So many of us attend services from time and time, and yet often find ourselves feeling awkward or embarrassed when we are unable to join in or don't understand what is being said. Join Rabbi Geffen for informative sessions on 3 fundamental Jewish prayers. This class is an introductory level class and assumes participants have little to no prior knowledge or experience with prayers. Participants are welcome to attend, 1, 2 or all 3 classes. Class dates & topics are: October 15-Shema; October 22-Amidah; October 29-Aleinu. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.



THE BETRAYERS AND OTHER STORIES: WRITING FOR THE PAGE AND THE SCREEN

David Bezmozgis

Tuesday, October 23 | 6:00 pm Reception, 7:00 pm Lecture

Award-winning author and filmmaker David Bezmozgis will talk about creating stories about Russian-Jewish immigrants in books and films, how he decides which form a story will take, and what it's like to adapt and direct his own work for the screen.



David Bezmozgis is the author of the story collection, *Natasha and Other Stories*, and the novels, *The Free World*, and *The Betrayers*. David's stories have appeared in numerous publications including *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *Zoetrope All-Story*, and *The Walrus*. *Natasha* won the Toronto Book Award and the Commonwealth Book Prize for a best first book, and *The Betrayers* won the Amazon.ca First Novel Award and the National Jewish Book Award in Fiction.

A graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, David was included in *The New Yorker's* 20 Under 40 issue in 2010. His first feature film, *Victoria Day*, premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009. Born in Riga, Latvia, David lives in Toronto where he directs the Humber School for Writers.

This program is part of the University of Illinois' 21st Century Jewish Writers and the World series in both Champaign and Chicago. To register, contact RSVP@nsi.org.

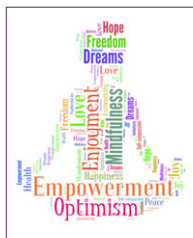
WISE AGING

Bev Shurman Lavitt, LCSW & Rabbi Nina J. Mizrahi, RJE

October through mid-December on alternate Wednesday mornings
(Specific dates will be provided after registration.)

"Old age is not a defeat, but a victory, not a punishment but a privilege. . . . [Our] potential for change and growth is much greater than we are willing to admit and old age (can) be regarded not as the age of stagnation but as the age of opportunities and growth."

~Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel~



WISE AGING is a participant-driven program that supports living the later years of our lives with meaning, resilience, and wisdom. As facilitators, we will guide participants through reflective work that enables you to come to new understandings about your lives, yourselves, and your values. Wise Aging invites people approaching their 60's, 70's, and 80's to explore this chapter of life as an opportunity. We hope you will join us on this journey!

Cost of Wise Aging is that of the foundational text:
Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and

Dr. Linda Thal (Behrman House, June 2015), \$16.95.

If you are interested, please contact: Bev bevshurmanlavitt@gmail.com or Nina ninajanemizrahi@gmail.com.

Note that space is limited & registration through facilitators is required.

Wise Aging is Inspired by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality / Sponsored by North Shore Congregation Israel

FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL OF ADULT JEWISH LEARNING-COMBINED CORE YEAR I

Faculty: Rabbi Reni Dickman and Marianne Novack



Tuesdays through April 2019, beginning October 16 | 7:00 pm-9:15 pm

The Melton Core class provides a high-quality, meaningful adult Jewish learning opportunity. In this world-class curriculum created by scholars at Hebrew University you will have a chance to explore Jewish thought and text with an outstanding faculty and a wonderful community of learners. This is a two-year program. The learning for year 1 is comprised of:

Rhythms of Jewish Living: examines the Jewish calendar, holidays and life-cycle events. Students explore ideas, beliefs and practices that define Jewish life.

Purposes of Jewish Living: explores Jewish thought and beliefs. Essential Jewish theological concepts are presented through in-depth examination of the Bible, Talmud and other sacred texts. Cost for is \$620 for members of NSCI. This class will be held at the Board of Jewish Education Campus for Jewish Learning, 3320 Dundee Road, Northbrook. To register contact Rolly Cohen at rolly@bjechicago.org or 847-291-7788 ext. 1304.



NACHMAN SCHOLAR SERIES: THE WORKINGS OF BODY & SOUL: A JEWISH CONVERSATION

Rabbi Eleanor Smith, MD

Tuesdays, October 16, 30, November 6, 13 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Rabbi Eleanor Smith, MD will lead four sessions exploring Jewish texts that explore the relationship and interplay between Judaism and the workings of the human body. We will delve into Jewish teachings such as teachings of Maimonides (a physician and a rabbi) that allow us to see the ways that Judaism sets a framework in matters of physical and emotional health, and consider landmark studies that inform truths in our understanding of human health today. Our learning will create a conversation between these two dynamic systems that both have human wellness at their center. To register, contact RSVP@nscl.org.

Rabbi Eleanor Smith was ordained by the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in 1993. She served as Associate Rabbi of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston before deciding to extend her rabbinate with the study of medicine. In 2008 she graduated with her MD from the University of Chicago where she subsequently completed a residency in Internal Medicine. Since early 2012, Dr. Smith has been a Clinical Faculty member at Northwestern Medicine where she works as an Internist serving a diverse population of patients in the Chicagoland area. In May, of 2018, she was honored to receive her Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College celebrating 25 years of service. She is the extremely proud and lucky mother of Judah, Sophie and Harel.

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 adult learners here at NSCI. The Nachmans, themselves eager students of Jewish learning, generously provided the resources and, importantly, gave us a key criterion for our scholars: they must be excellent teachers. Dr. Nachman was proud that Rabbi Eleanor Smith was one of our first Nachman Scholars as she set out on her journey to bring spiritual and physical health together. We are so pleased to welcome her back to NSCI.

TASTE OF MUSSAR

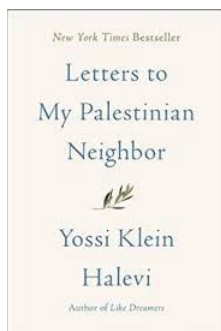
Marsha Cohn

Thursdays, October 18, 25, November 1, 8 | 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

Fee is \$36 per person

Have you ever wondered why you're here...on the planet? Why the same annoying things happen to you over and over again? Mussar is a 1000-year-old Jewish spiritual tradition with the keys to unlock the answers to those questions. Join Marsha Cohn for A Taste of Mussar to learn about and experience how this ancient tradition can help you discover the answers to those questions and give you a roadmap for becoming the person you've always wanted to be. To register, contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsi.org.

Marsha Cohn has been facilitating Mussar groups since 2009. She is trained through the Mussar Institute, has led most of their classes, and has contributed to the development of the curriculum for Manchim, the group through which new Mussar facilitators are trained. Marsha brings this experience, her skills from 25 years as a therapist, and learning from her prior nursing career to her Mussar work. Marsha's involvement in Mussar learning began in Dallas, where she taught at Temple Emanu-El. We are thrilled to welcome her back to NSCI where she left her mark with warmth and wisdom over a decade ago through teaching, music and co-leading the Women's Seder.



BOOK DISCUSSION ON LETTERS TO MY PALESTINIAN NEIGHBOR BY YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Wednesday, October 17 | 7:00 pm

Join Rabbi Geffen for a discussion on this critically acclaimed, best-selling book. The book is widely available for purchase. Please read the book in advance of the discussion. Yossi Klein Halevi will be with us on November 1st as our Davis Lecture Scholar. To register, contact RSVP@nsi.org.

THE 2018 DAVIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM: ISRAEL, BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Yossi Klein Halevi

Thursday, November 1 | 7:00pm

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University, he co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative. Yossi has been active in Middle East reconciliation work, and serves as chairman of Open House, an Arab Israeli-Jewish Israeli center in the town of Ramle, near Tel Aviv. Yossi was one of the founders of the now-defunct Israeli-Palestinian Media Forum, which brought together Israeli and Palestinian journalists. Yossi was born in New York. He has a B.A. in Jewish studies from Brooklyn College and an M.S. in journalism from Northwestern University. He moved to Israel in 1982, and lives in Jerusalem with his family. To register, contact Melanie Goldberg, goldbergm@ajc.org, (312)-646-6124.



During the evening AJC will also be presenting German Consul General Herbert Quelle with the Laurence M. Adelman Memorial Award for all of his work in Chicago and beyond in promoting equality and democratic values, and combating anti-Semitism and all forms of hate.



AFTER ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH: ONWARD!

Judy Weiss

Mondays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3 | 6:30 pm

For adults who have already been called to the Torah as adult b'nei mitzvah in our NSCI Adult B'nei Mitzvah program, here is an opportunity to continue learning Hebrew and prayer with our beloved teacher Judy Weiss. Judy will lead students in more depth using the text *Bechol Levavcha: With All Your Heart*. You wondered what to do with your Monday nights? Now you know. If you were in our most recent Adult B'nei Mitzvah class or a prior one, you are welcome to participate in this course. Interested? Contact Rabbi Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org. To sign up contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.

FREEDOM SONG

Sunday, November 4 | 12:30 pm

The cast of this original musical are not actors; they are actual addicts in recovery that have broken off the shackles of drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other destructive behaviors. By interweaving a Passover Seder with personal stories of addiction, Freedom Song poses one stark question, "What are you a slave to?" Using song and dance, tears and laughter, and a powerful post-show discussion with the cast, Freedom Song will open your eyes to the real life struggle against the 'bondage of self' that many fight every day. RSVP <https://www.nsci.org/event/freedomsong>.



GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Author Bonnie Rochman, Rebecca Wang, MS, CGC of the
Norton & Elaine Sarnoff Center for Jewish Genetics

Thursday, November 8 | 7:00 pm

Location: North Suburban Synagogue Beth El (1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park)

Doors open at 7:00 pm for an appetizer reception. Program begins promptly at 7:45 pm.



How are genetic technologies shaping the Jewish community? From screening to beat Tay-Sachs to shielding ourselves from cancer, genetic technologies are changing the way we think about inherited disease—and inspiring ethical, legal and social debates about the decisions we make to protect our health

and the health of future generations. Bonnie Rochman, award-winning author of *The Gene Machine*, and genetic counselor Rebecca Wang, MS, CGC, will explore the relationship between a new frontier of genetic technologies and our families and community at large. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Goldberg at SarahGoldberg@juf.org.

Please note: North Suburban Synagogue Beth El holds a minyan nightly from 7:30 to 7:45. Guests are welcome to attend this optional minyan.

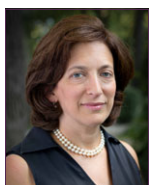
TASTE OF JUDAISM

Rabbi Lisa Greene

Tuesdays, November 27, December 4, 11 | 7:00 pm

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. Pre-registration is required.

Contact: Joy Wasserman, Jbwasserman@urj.com, 872-256-1818.



RITUAL IN OUR LIVES

Rabbi Lisa Greene

Mondays, November 26, December 10, 17 | 7:00 pm

For all of the sacred moments in our lives that we mark in Jewish ways — births, bar/bat mitzvah, weddings, funerals, so much happens in our lives that is unmarked in a Jewish way, either because there is no ritual (yet), what exists doesn't meet our needs, or we don't even know what Judaism offers. Explore with Rabbi Greene opportunities to make times of joy and times of struggle, the great and the small, meaningful in a Jewish way. We will look at ritual theory, traditional life cycle rituals and innovative new ritual and consider how to re-engage prayer and action for new purposes. Creating ritual is a favorite pursuit of Rabbi Greene whose ELI talk on creating new Jewish ritual for divorce is being released any day (elitalks.org). She will empower you to make your own moments sacred and Jewish. To register contact, RSVP@nsci.org.

TRAVEL WITH NSCI

A TASTE OF JEWISH PHILADELPHIA

Women of NSCI & Rabbi Greene

November 1 - 4, 2018

After last year's wonderful women's NYC weekend, WNSCI moves on to Philadelphia for a weekend of learning, culture and good company. Highlights of our Philly trip include: Dinner at Zahav—restaurant of famed Israeli chef Michael Solomonov, visits to the National Museum of American Jewish History, The Barnes Foundation (focusing on Jewish artists), Eastern Penitentiary (really!), The American Revolution Museum & the Liberty Bell, Shabbat services at an historic Reform Congregation, theatre.

For more information including costs contact Karen Kohn at karnie18@aol.com. Space is limited.



ADULTS CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY

Rabbis Daniels & Geffen

February 21 - 24, 2019

Visit the Rosa Parks Museum, Voter Rights Museum, Edmund Pettus Bridge, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice & The Legacy Museum, Freedom Park, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and The Names Project—AIDS Memorial Quilt. Learn about the struggles of African Americans in the 1950s-60s, discover how the Jewish community helped to shape the Civil Rights Movement, and meet American heroes who participated in the Movement and remain committed to pursuing justice today. Cost \$745 - \$845 per person, plus flights. For registration information contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org. Questions? Contact Rabbi Ryan Daniels, rabbidaniels@nsci.org. Registration deadline is November 2, 2018.

PARENTING CLASSES

KIDS & TECHNOLOGY-WHAT'S A PARENT TO DO?

Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW & Rabbi Lisa Greene

Sunday, September 30 | 9:15 am-10:45 am

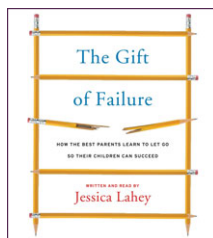


Technology and its accompanying social media are parts of our everyday lives, and they impact our parenting and our kids' growth and development. What is the current knowledge of the impact of technology on kids and parents and how can that inform our parenting choices? Led by Tracey Kite, LCSW of Jewish Child and Family Services and Rabbi Greene. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

PARENTING BOOK GROUP-THE GIFT OF FAILURE

Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW & Rabbi Lisa Greene

Sundays, October 14, November 11, December 16, January 20 | 9:15 am-10:45 am



Raising children has always been demanding, and our current culture has its own challenges (social media, competition, culture of protecting kids from discomfort). Meet monthly with other parents, using a parenting book and discussion to keep trying to be the best parent you can be. In this four-part series, we will read *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed* by Jessica Lahey and use it as a springboard to discussions about major and minor issues in family life. Please purchase the book; we will tell you which chapters to read for each

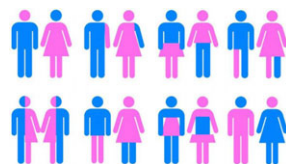
session. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

IDENTITY AND WHAT OUR KIDS ARE TALKING ABOUT

Lisa Ehrlich of Response Center

Sunday, December 9 | 9:15 am

Language changes fast. So too does our understanding of gender and sexuality. Our children and grandchildren are on the cutting edge of this and we, their parents and grandparents, are often left in the dust, not sure how to speak with them on these important topics. In order to communicate and support our youth, we need to understand them and what they are telling us. This workshop is designed to help parents, grandparents, and other family members learn the language that youth use to define their gender identity and explain their sexuality and provide resources for adults to continue to support the children in their lives as they grow and develop.



The workshop will be led by Response Center's Coordinator of Outreach Education, Lisa Ehrlich. Lisa has both a BA in Theatre and History with a focus on gender and race and a Master's in Education from the University of Michigan. She has joined Response after cultivating her expertise in curriculum development and youth advocacy over 15 years as a high school teacher in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The principles of identity, inclusion, equity, and social justice guide her work with both youth and adults in the areas of anti-bias, gender and sexuality education, and advocacy and activism. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.



LIVING A LIFE OF MEANING

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Session 1 – Fridays, January 11, 18, 25 | 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Session 2 - Wednesdays, April 17, 24, May 1 | 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

From a Jewish perspective, we can choose to live our lives with meaning and purpose or with despair and cynicism. Join Rabbi Geffen in an exploration of Judaism's most important principles and values and how their understanding can improve our lives, our relationship and our world. This is a text-based class that will explore the 11th Century master work *"Duties of the Heart"* written by Bachya Ibn Pekuda. No prior experience necessary, only an open mind and heart. To register, contact RSVP@nscl.org.

INTRO TO JUDAISM

**Rabbi Lisa Greene, Rabbi Ryan Daniels,
Dr. Roberta Goodman**

18 Mondays beginning Monday January 28, 2019

Intro to Judaism is a course teaching the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice perfect for interfaith couples, those from different faith backgrounds considering conversion, and Jews looking for an adult-level introduction. NSCI will be hosting an Intro to Judaism class open to community members beginning Monday January 28, 2019. Tuition is \$295 per student, plus the cost of books. To register go to www.reformjudaism.org Questions? Contact Joy Wasserman, jbwasserman@urj.org



COFFEE, BAGELS AND PRAYER

Rabbi Ryan Daniels

Saturdays, January 12, February 9, March 2,

March 23, April 6 | 11:15 am-12:15 pm

You come to services and know the prayers by rote. Do you want a deeper understanding of their meaning? Come enjoy coffee & bagels and learn about the pieces of the Shabbat morning service and their deeper meaning. Together with Rabbi Daniels, we will explore original Hebrew texts and discuss the major themes of each prayer. This class assumes participants have some experience with traditional Jewish prayers. To register, contact RSVP@nscl.org.

THE WRITING OF PHILIP ROTH

Neil Rigler

Mondays, January 14, 28, February 4, 11 | 7:00 pm

Philip Roth's fiction is known for its autobiographical character, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, and for its provocative explorations of American and Jewish identity. His recent death marked the passing of a major literary voice -- one you may not have had the opportunity to read recently. During these sessions we will explore a variety of Roth's work, from short stories to excerpts from his novels to pieces of nonfiction. Along the way, we'll look at Roth's work through a Jewish lens and consider other themes that arise. Copies of all readings will be provided each night. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.



JUDAISM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Rabbi Ryan Daniels

Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

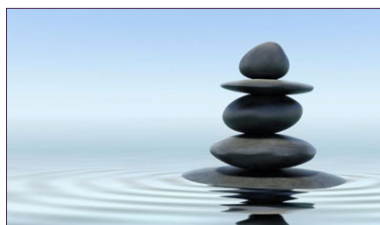
Join Rabbi Daniels to examine Judaism and Jewish identity through our ancient sources and the modern teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. Together we'll ask the big question and explore Jewish tradition with an eye to finding meaning in our lives today. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

MINDFUL OR MINDLESS LIFE

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Wednesdays, March 6, 13 | 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

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. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.



BEYOND BORDERS: THE HISTORY OF THE ISRAELI- ARAB CONFLICT

Carl Schrag

Thursdays, March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18,
May 2, 9, 16, 23 | 10:00 am-11:30 am



The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning presents this discussion-based class that will challenge everything you thought you knew about the complex Israeli-Arab conflict. Class materials will represent many different points of view from the 19th century through today. The cost for NSCI members is \$265. To register contact Rolly Cohen, rolly@bjechicago.org.

SPRING 2019

Just a start...more learning opportunities will be announced!



WNSCI WOMEN'S SEDER

Wednesday, April 10 | 6:00 pm

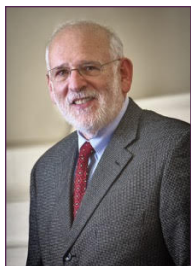
Our WNSCI Women's pre-Passover Women's Seder brings together women of all ages to engage in a powerful ritual. The seder is created by women of our congregation and led by Rabbi Greene using a haggadah created expressly by women of our congregation for this seder. Each Women's Seder brings to life the 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. We would love to have you help make the seder happen and join us for the ritual. For more information, please contact WNSCI Presidents Eileen Weil, pinkeweil@yahoo.com, Beth Tross, iagal1@comcast.net, or Rabbi Lisa Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY SEDER

Saturday, April 20 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

This alcohol-free experiential seder (Passover meal and ritual) is intended for all who are journeying toward recovery, those in recovery, their loved ones and allies to celebrate Passover in a safe environment, among others who speak the language of recovery. Understanding that Passover, with its 4 cups of wine, can be difficult, this experience will enable participants to come together in the safety and comfort of those with shared experiences in order to learn and grow together. This event is open to the community; all are welcome, and attendance is confidential. For more information, contact Rabbi Ryan Daniels: rabbidaniels@nsci.org or (847) 835-0724.





COVENANT: A MATTER OF FAITH AND/OR IDENTITY

Rabbi Steven Mason

Mondays, May 6, 13, 20 | 7:00 pm

A close look at Biblical, Talmudic, Medieval and modern Jewish texts that reflect on the questions: who, how, or what is a Jew. All texts will be provided in English translation. No previous experience is necessary. To register, contact RSVP@nsci.org.

ADULT B'NEI 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 20'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 2019, or winter 2020. Classes will meet Monday evenings. Rabbi Lisa Greene and Judy Weiss are the primary teachers. Interested? Talk to Rabbi Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org. Want to talk to past Adult B'nei Mitzvah? Ask us!



NOTES

For Adult Learning registration, please see specific class descriptions.
For general information on Adult Learning at North Shore Congregation Israel,
contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nscl.org, 847-835-0724.



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