



Bob Revinsky, President

Jewish Study Center

Jewish learning for scholars and newcomers since 1978

October–December 2003

JSC's New Lineup

- ▼ Jews in Baseball/Jews & Baseball
- ▼ American Sephardic Personalities
- ▼ Basic Judaism ▼ Mystical Kabbalistic Tales
- ▼ Synagogue Architecture ▼ Hebrew Calligraphy
- ▼ When Harry Met Sally: Jewish Relationships in the Movies ▼ Riffs on the Proverbs
- ▼ Jews & the 2004 Presidential Campaign
- ▼ Experiencing the Divine Presence through Art
- ▼ Savoring the Psalms ▼ Parshat Hashavua
- ▼ Learn to Lead Musaf ▼ Leyning
- ▼ Business Ethics & the Talmud
- ▼ Sing a Song of Yiddishkeit
- ▼ Ulysses ▼



Catch Our New Classes

Right off the Bat—JSC's Fall Lineup

Mondays, page 2

Tuesdays, pages 3–4

Wednesdays, pages 5–7

JSC's Home Bases: Our new Chinatown location is in the historic former Adas building. Getting to all three downtown locations, page 4.

Our Pitch to You: Sign up for classes, and support the Jewish Study Center, pages 7–8.

**OCTOBER 20–
DECEMBER 8
(8 CLASSES)
7:30–8:45 PM
MEMBER: \$85
NON-MEMBER: \$95**

Basic Judaism

This course will outline core Jewish beliefs, customs, and practices. It will introduce basic Jewish textual sources and avenues for further exploration, such as study, home observance, and synagogue life. Field trips will present opportunities to experience Judaism directly and get to know a range of synagogues and other resources in the local Jewish community. We will discuss what it means to live a Jewish life and consider next steps in what can become a lifetime of Jewish study.

Tom Diaz is a lawyer. He and his wife are members of Adas Israel Congregation and Keshet Israel. They also attend the DC Minyan. He last taught Basic Judaism for the Jewish Study Center in Spring 2003.

**OCTOBER 27–
NOVEMBER 17
(4 CLASSES)
7:30–8:45 PM
MEMBER: \$45
NON-MEMBER: \$55**

Sing a Song of Yiddishkeit

Come learn well-loved Yiddish songs by Mordechai Gebirtig (1877–1942), poet-composer of Polish Jewry, whose songs were considered folk songs during his own lifetime and are often used as background music when “lost Jewish culture” is being evoked. Students will be taught some Yiddish vocabulary and examine the world and culture the songs depict, while learning to sing the words to melodies often heard in Klezmer music, such as Yankele, Reizele, and S'brent.

Maurice Singer is Ritual Director at Adas Israel. He was born in Antwerp, Belgium, and his Mameloshn (mother tongue) is Yiddish. He survived the war in Belgium and arrived in NYC in 1948. He is a member of Yiddish of Greater Washington, and singing Yiddish songs is what he loves best.

**NOVEMBER 17–
DECEMBER 15
(5 CLASSES)
7:30–8:45 PM
MEMBER: \$55
NON-MEMBER: \$65**

An Interfaith Reading of Ulysses

This spring marks the 100th anniversary of Bloomsday, the fictional day on which James Joyce’s *Ulysses* takes place. What better time to study this masterpiece, in Joyce’s own words, “an epic of two races (Israelite-Irish).” We will examine Joyce’s treatment of Jewish and Irish identities and the trans-national themes of exile and public and private journeys, with a particular emphasis on Joyce’s use of Irish history and Jewish texts. All are welcome to this first part and also to a second part in the semester following.

Rich Blaustein is a veteran Jewish Study Center teacher, whose many courses include several on the works of James Joyce.

**DECEMBER 1–15
(3 CLASSES)
7:30–8:45 PM
MEMBER: \$35
NON-MEMBER: \$45**

A New Golden Age— Sephardic Personalities in the New World

During the Golden Age of Spain many Jews made notable contributions to the society in which they lived, while remaining loyal to Judaism. Sephardim continued this pattern in the New World following their expulsion from the Iberian peninsula. Sadly, these people are largely unknown today. This course will give you the chance to learn about a number of colorful individuals—writers, artists, diplomats, politicians, and military men—who moved with ease in their communities, participating in civic life without sacrificing their Jewishness.

Jeffrey Kaplan, a lawyer with the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, is archivist of Philadelphia’s oldest Jewish institution, Congregation Mikveh Israel, founded in 1740. He is active in Sephardic communal endeavors, and teaches regularly on American, Southern, and Sephardic Jewish history.

New! Early evening classes at the historic 6th & I synagogue

**OCTOBER 21–
NOVEMBER 25
(6 CLASSES)
6:45–8:00 PM
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

Rabbi Nachman's Mystical Kabbalistic Tales

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav wrote thirteen mystical kabbalistic tales. His fascinating stories can be read at many levels: as *p'shat* (fairy tales that turn the traditional tales on their heads), as *drash* (with each element being allegorically redefined), as *sod* (with deep Kabbalistic meaning), and as representing Rav Nachman's personal experience. We will, as a group and in *chevruta* (pairs), attempt to unravel the strands to provide us with insights into ourselves, G-d, and the world. R. Nachman once said: "I told a tale (of such power) that whoever heard it had thoughts of repentance."

Stories will be read using *Nachman of Bratslav: the Tales*, translated by Arnold J. Band (Paulist Press). Copies will be available for purchase the first night of class.

Howard White is a long-time member, student, and teacher at the Jewish Study Center. He has taught courses on kabbalah and Jewish mysticism.

**OCTOBER 28–
NOVEMBER 25
(4 CLASSES)
(NO CLASS NOV. 11)
6:45–8:00 PM
MEMBER: \$45
PLUS SUPPLIES
NON-MEMBER: \$55
PLUS SUPPLIES**

Hebrew Calligraphy

This class will cover basic calligraphy skills and how to apply them to the Hebrew alphabet. Students will learn to write, and become familiar with, the letters. Please preregister so that sufficient supplies can be made available, appropriate for left- and right-handed students. (Let us know which you are!)

Sharon Zamore is an attorney at the SEC and enjoys calligraphy in both English and Hebrew when she is not swing dancing.

**NOVEMBER 18–
DECEMBER 9
(4 CLASSES)
6:45–8:00 PM
MEMBER: \$45
NON-MEMBER: \$55**

Jews in Baseball/ Jews and Baseball

It's not just Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg! Well over 100 Jews have played baseball in the major leagues. This course will look at the experiences of some of those players, as well as an assortment of Jewish non-players whose lives were deeply connected with the game, including owners, writers, gamblers, and fans. The role of baseball in American Jewish life and literature will also be examined.

Jim Gollin has taught many courses at the Study Center. He currently works as a legal assistant and has long been intrigued by baseball lore.

MORE
TUESDAY
CLASSES
ON PAGE 4



Call JSC at (202) 248-8810, or email jewishsc@erols.com.

NOVEMBER 18–
DECEMBER 16
(5 CLASSES)
6:45–8:00 PM
MEMBER: \$55
NON-MEMBER: \$65

INDIVIDUAL LECTURES:
MEMBER: \$15
NON-MEMBER: \$20

FOR A DETAILED LIST OF
SPEAKERS AND THEIR
TOPICS, PLEASE SEE:
jewishstudycenter.org

Sacred Spaces: Issues in Recent Synagogue Architecture

Is there a “Jewish Architecture” style? What issues do congregations contemplate when planning a sacred space? What makes a space sacred? What about the environmental and social costs imposed by many building practices—can space be sacred if its construction is less than ethical? The Washington area has seen an explosion of imaginative synagogue design in recent years. In these five lectures, architects and other key players will discuss their involvement in designing sacred spaces, including Kehilat Shalom in Gaithersburg, Har Shalom in Potomac, Adat Shalom in Bethesda, and Temple Micah in DC. The setting for the course—the newly renovated and repurposed Sixth and I Street synagogue complex, formerly the home of Adas Israel Congregation, then for decades of Turner Memorial AME Church—is an appropriate setting for this course.

Judy Marks directs a school buildings information clearinghouse at the National Institute of Building Sciences and is former director of the American Institute of Architects Library and Archives. She is an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. *Michael Selman* is past president and chair of the building committee of the recently expanded Kehilat Shalom. *Michael Poness* was the architect, and *Sam Kramer* is a member who was actively involved in planning the new sanctuary at Congregation Har Shalom. *Robert Weinstein* was co-architect with his wife, *Judith Capen*, of Temple Micah, where they are members. *Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb*, while on sabbatical from EPA award-winning Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, is the Rabbinic Fellow for the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life.

Getting There



Parking

Washington DC
Jewish Community
Center
1529 16th St. NW
at Q Street

Limited parking at WDCJCC lot, adjacent to the JCC, for charge; must validate tickets at front desk. Colonial parking lot, 1616 P Street (two blocks from JCC), \$5.00.

Adas Israel
2850 Quebec St. NW
at Connecticut Ave.

Parking lot entrance just beyond building, on Quebec Street NW.

600 I Street NW
Synagogue

Street parking, commercial parking lots.



Metro

Take the Red Line to Dupont Circle. Exit at Q Street (north exit). Walk east, crossing over Connecticut Avenue NW. The Center is located at the corner of 16th & Q Streets, NW. Enter on Q Street.

Take the Red Line to Cleveland Park (east exit). Walk two blocks north, and turn right at the EXXON Station to Quebec.

Take Metro to Gallery Place (Chinatown / 7th and H exit).



Shuttle Bus Service

From Metro, the free WDCJCC shuttle service runs between the Q Street (north) entrance of the Dupont Circle Metro and the Center. The white van departs every 15 minutes, beginning at Metro, from 6:30–10:30 pm, Monday to Thursday.

Please pre-register to save your place and avoid the rush.

**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 17
(8 CLASSES)
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
7:00–9:00 PM
MEMBER: \$95
NON-MEMBER: \$105**

When Harry Met Sally: Jewish Relationships in the Movies



By viewing clips from recent and classic movies, this course will review casts (Jews in Jewish roles, Jews played by non-Jews) and characters (Jews dating Jews, Jews dating non-Jews, non-Jews dating Jews, Jews not dating anyone, and, of course, Jews' relationships with their mothers).

Katherine Wertheim previously taught “*Monica and her Mother*” and “*The Bad Jewish Woman in TV, Film, and Literature*” for the Jewish Study Center.

**OCTOBER 22–
NOVEMBER 12
(4 CLASSES)
7:00–9:00 PM
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

Experiencing the Divine Presence through Art

We speak of the divine presence of God or the *shechinah*, and visualize or feel something. What is that something? Is there a way to create something tangible as a touchstone for remembering the experience of connecting on a spiritual level? In the course, we'll look at the work of well-known and lesser-known Jewish artists engaged in this endeavor. Then we will spend three sessions working on exploring this theme directly through collage and drawing. All levels of experience are welcome.

Judybeth Greene is an attorney and an artist (see www.Judybeth.com) whose works have appeared in local venues from Eastern Market and Baltimore's ARTSCAPE to galleries, restaurants, and religious institutions.

**OCTOBER 22–
NOVEMBER 12
(4 CLASSES)
7:00–8:15 PM
MEMBER: \$45
NON-MEMBER: \$55**

Musaf: Learn to Lead the Additional Service

What is an “additional” service, and why is it included in the Shabbat liturgy? Why is it not included in Reform and Reconstructionist practice? How does Musaf, the additional service, differ from Shacharit, the morning service, which precedes it? This course, for those seeking basic background as well as those interested in leading, will explore Musaf's role in the liturgy and provide practice in its prayers and their tunes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cassette recorders, if possible (after the first class). Class tapes can be reproduced for a small fee.

Amanda Maisels, a lawyer specializing in civil rights, occasionally leads Musaf at the Adas Israel Traditional Minyan. *Jeremy Winaker*, assistant rabbi at Adas Israel, always davens Musaf, even when the service he is leading does not.

**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 3
(6 CLASSES)
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
8:30–9:45 PM
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

Savoring the Psalms

The 150 linked religious poems that make up the Book of Psalms can seem inaccessible and strange to the casual reader. But probably no poems ever written have absorbed more interpretation—both religious and literary—nor been looked to more consistently over the millennia for consolation and insight. In this class, a group that began studying psalms together last spring will continue to look at individual psalms primarily as poems to be read, untangled, and savored. New members are welcome as we wade through complicated and often magnificent religious imagery and ponder the psalmist's constantly changing attitude towards G-d. We will compare various translations and look at the Hebrew to a limited degree, depending on the preferences and fluency of class members.

Amy Schwartz is a writer and a member of Adas Israel, where she davens with the Traditional Minyan. She has taught many Study Center courses on poetry.

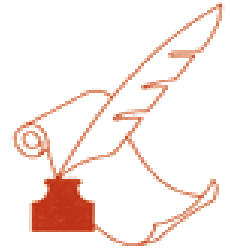


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**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 3
(6 CLASSES)
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
8:30–9:45 PM
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

Riffs on Proverbs

Each week the class will look at a handful of lines from Mishlei (Proverbs), a wonderful book when read in small doses, and see how proverbs inform rabbinic traditions and appear in Jewish stories, law, and liturgy. Some of the phrases we will investigate are “Death and life are in the power of the tongue”; “It is a tree of life to those who hold fast to it”; “One who mocks the poor reproaches his maker”; “He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind”; “The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the memory of the wicked shall rot”; “There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against God”; “Stolen waters are sweet”; “Go to the ant, o sluggard, and become wise”; and “A woman of valor who can find?”



Norman Shore is a veteran teacher for the Jewish Study Center and elsewhere in the Washington Jewish community.

**OCTOBER 22–
NOVEMBER 12
(4 CLASSES)
8:30–9:45 PM
MEMBER: \$45
NON-MEMBER: \$55**

Business Ethics and the Talmud

What constitutes a fair contract? Under what circumstances may an out-of-town competitor seek to woo customers from a local business? What is the proper balance between work and the rest of life? The Talmud contains many classic discussions of these eminently modern stumpers, and each day’s newspaper provides opportunities to test the rabbis’ principles and re-argue their disputes. This class will examine selected Talmudic discussions on ever-relevant business topics, ranging from fair treatment of workers to corporate stewardship of the environment. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary.

Larry Kahaner is an award-winning business journalist and author of Values, Prosperity and the Talmud: Business Lessons from the Ancient Rabbis (John Wiley & Sons, 2003), among other books.

**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 3
(8 CLASSES)
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
7:00–8:15 PM
MEMBER: \$85
NON-MEMBER: \$95**

Parshat Hashavua: Torah through the Portion of the Week

As the fall holidays end, the cycle of weekly Torah readings begins anew from Creation. By studying parshat hashavua—the weekly portion—this class will deal with some of the best-known narratives in the Torah, focusing on the commonalities and tensions between *p’shat* (literal meaning) and *midrash* (moral/ethical meaning) of the text. We will cover Genesis 1–40, Parasha B’reisheet to Parasha Vayeshev. Participants are encouraged to bring a favorite commentary to class, though there will also be commentaries from a variety of sources provided for all. All degrees of experience are welcome, but some knowledge of Hebrew will be helpful.

Jay David Sales is a rabbi who lives in Cleveland Park and davens at the Adas Traditional Minyan. After 10 fulfilling years teaching in the Upper School of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, since June he has been consulting and working on projects to increase the success of Jewish education through the use of technology.

Please pre-register to save your place and avoid the rush.

**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 3
8:30–9:45 PM
6 CLASSES
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

The Soul of Torah: Introduction to Leyning

It is said that the scroll is the body of the Torah, while the individual reading provides the breath or soul. Leyning, chanting from the Torah, is a musical skill. Perhaps more importantly, leyning punctuates the text and makes it come alive, for the reader and for those who hear it. This practical course will introduce those able to read Hebrew to the art of chanting the Torah text. The musical phrases, or *trope*, that are used in leyning will be learned by ear in class, and tapes will be made available on request for practice outside of class. Phonetic reading of Hebrew is required. The Study Center will help match participants with a congregation or minyan in which to debut their new skills.

Avi Weisberg leyns frequently at the Adas Israel Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and has helped many b'nei mitzvah and adults prepare for their first readings from the Torah.

**OCTOBER 22–
DECEMBER 3
8:30–9:45 PM
6 CLASSES
(NO CLASS ON
NOVEMBER 26)
MEMBER: \$65
NON-MEMBER: \$75**

Jews and the 2004 Presidential Campaign

Fifty years ago, Jews were not prominent in American politics. Today, some would say politics is a Jewish profession. This year, one of the major presidential primary candidates is Jewish, another's wife is Jewish, and still another's father was Jewish, as was another's grandfather. Why do so many of the candidates claim to have Jewish backgrounds and what, if anything, does it mean? Explore the history of Jews and American politics, from the nation's earliest days to the 2004 presidential campaign, and hear insider perspectives on the relationship between Jews and politics from the thick of this political season. Where are the candidates on the issues about which Jews care most, and how are they letting us know? Are Jewish voters trending Republican in 2004, or is that just a Republican *bubbe meiseh*? How will campaign finance reform affect Jewish donors and their chosen candidates and parties? And what's the story with last year's much-heralded Lieberman phenomenon?

Steve Rabinowitz is a Washington political media consultant, an adjunct professor of political communication, and a former Clinton White House press aide. His clients include both the Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism.

FALL AT THE JEWISH STUDY CENTER

MAIL COUPON TO: 3547 BRANDYWINE STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20008

NAME _____	COURSE NAME _____	AMOUNT _____
ADDRESS _____	_____	_____
PHONE NUMBER _____	_____	_____
EMAIL _____	_____	_____

MEMBER RATE: I AM A MEMBER OF:
 JSC ___ FABRANGEN ___
 WDCJCC ___ ADAS ISRAEL ___
 JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ___

BECOME A JEWISH STUDY CENTER MEMBER
 INDIVIDUAL: \$36 HOUSEHOLD: \$72 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



Come Learn with Us!



The best of the tradition in an informal setting...

The Jewish Study Center is an independent non-profit center for adult Jewish education in the Washington, DC, area. Founded in 1978, it has established a reputation for quality teaching and learning in an open, participatory environment. Courses provide study opportunities for hundreds of adults to engage with traditional texts and topics, contemporary Jewish culture and concerns, and faculty from across the community! We welcome teachers and students of all backgrounds.



Jewish Study Center
 Explore Traditional & Contemporary Jewish Topics in Informal Class Settings
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Give Generously to CFC/United Way 8366

Come Learn with Us!
 Open to All



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