



# Jewish Study Center

[www.jewishstudycenter.org](http://www.jewishstudycenter.org)

## SPRING 2009 CLASSES

- **ROAD AHEAD FOR ISRAEL** (see page 3)
- **JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT** (see page 4)
- **YIDDISH BEYOND "OY"** (see page 6)
- **FISH TALES** (see page 4)



And many more!

## L'CHAIM – TO LIFE !!!

*Study, Fun, Community*

## ***Special Events!***

- ◆ **Fun and Music –**  
**1st DC Jewish A Cappella Festival**
- ◆ **150th Birthday of Sholem Aleichem**
- ◆ **Jewish Study Center Goes to a Nationals Game**



## Jewish A Cappella Festival

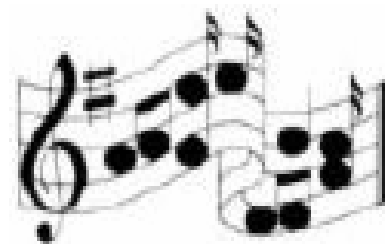
**Where:** 1 block north Gallery Place/Chinatown metro—

**Sixth and I Synagogue**

**When:** Sunday April 26 7PM

**How much:** \$25—Pre-registered and pre-paid  
\$30—at the door

\$10—Students and Seniors with ID



**Have fun g'dolah with JSC members, students and musicians. Listen to 6 groups — for the price of one amaaazing evening. Includes raffle and CD sales.**

## Jewish Study Center goes to a Nationals Game

Sunday June 21 1:15PM Nationals Stadium

“Take me out to the ball game . . . ”

Join us as the Jewish Study Center goes to a fun-filled day at a Nationals Game!



**Tickets are \$14 !!! Order your tickets ahead with us and meet at the stadium.**

## General Orde Wingate Memorial Ceremony—

Sunday April 26 2:30PM

**Arlington National Cemetery - Gravesite 288 – Section 12 FREE**

General Orde Wingate was a British general who helped organize and train Jewish defense forces in Palestine prior to WWII. Considered one of the founders of the Israel Defense Forces he was a great soldier and friend of the Jewish people.

Co-sponsored with Jewish War Veterans, Dept. of DC, Friends of Yamin Orde, Brandeis District ZOA

## Feinsmith Quartet

Thursday June 9 7:30PM

Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater Washington DC JCC—1529 16th Street NW

Tickets: \$18, Discounted Members/Seniors/Under 25 \$15

Composer Daniel David Feinsmith constructs his original classical compositions using the gematria (numerology) of Jewish holy texts, including the Tanakh and ancient Kabbalistic writings, turning the written word into beautiful and astonishing arrangements. The music crosses the boundaries of tradition, evoking the exhilaration of mystical Judaism and interpreting the words of Torah anew. Each member of Feinsmith Quartet—cellist Jennifer Culp, bassist Michael Manring, classical guitarist Gyan Riley and pianist Christopher Taylor—has received critical acclaim for their unique talents.

Co-sponsored with Washington Jewish Music Festival - DCJCC

# Multi-Session Courses

\$15 per session pre-registered and prepaid; 10% discount pre-registered and prepaid full course; \$20 per session at door

## Yoga for All

*Linda Baron*

Wednesdays April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17 7-8:15PM Adas Israel

We'll practice classical yoga postures and experience how those postures facilitate awareness of the connection of mind, body, emotions and spirit. Spiritual discipline topics such as acceptance, choice, discernment, truth and transformation will be explored through movement. If you have a yoga mat and something for sitting such as a meditation cushion, firm blanket or pillow, please bring them. Instructor will bring extras. Also, please bring a journal and a pen. No prior experience needed.



**Linda Baron** has practiced yoga for more than 15 years and is a certified Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy Practitioner, Group Facilitator, and Yoga Teacher.

## Introduction to Judaism

*Bob Rovinsky*

Wednesdays May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10 7-8:15pm Adas Israel

For anyone--Jewish or Christian, agnostic or seeker--who wants to learn and experience the basics of Judaism. This course uses basic Jewish texts to explore what Jews study, how they observe Judaism in their homes, and what prayer and community mean to them. You will experience Judaism directly by visiting local synagogues, eating at a kosher restaurant, and sharing a Friday night dinner with the teacher and his family. This is not a conversion course but can be the gateway to a lifetime of Jewish living and study.

**Bob Rovinsky** is a former president of the Study Center, an active member of several area congregations and a popular storyteller.

## Beyond the Basics

*Bob Rovinsky and Guest Lecturers*

Wednesdays May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10 8:15-9:30pm Adas Israel

You asked for it, we're offering it--a follow-up to Bob Rovinsky's popular Introduction to Judaism (see above). For anyone who wants to deepen his or her knowledge in key areas such as prayer, tzedakah (charity) or philosophy. Topics will be jointly determined based on students' interests--so please register early! The seminar format will allow plenty of time for in-depth questions and answers.

## The Roadmap Ahead for Israel: Community Voices

Wednesdays May 6, 20, 27, June 3, 10 7-8:15PM Adas Israel

**Check our website for updates on this exciting series about what is happening in the Middle East --- which will feature samplings of rabbinic voices, community voices, media voices, and official voices ranging from the State Department to the Embassy of Saudi Arabia . Stay tuned!**

Co-sponsored with Am Kolel

## **“It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. . .”**

*Laura Bellow, Elan Margolies*

Sunday May 10 (rain date: Sunday June 7) 1:30-4:00PM

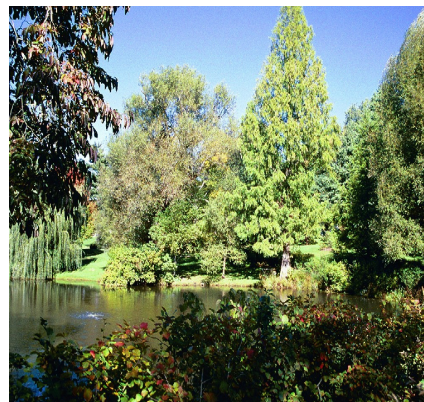
Rock Creek Park

**Meet at Pierce Mill parking lot—1/2 mile from Van Ness metro**

Enjoy a springtime nature hike in Washington in Rock Creek Park — while discussing Jewish values and the environment. Bring a water bottle, wear long pants.

**Laura Bellows** works for Shomrei Adamah, the premier Jewish environmental organization that serves the greater Washington area.

**Elan Margolies** is studying forestry agriculture and works for Center for Urban Ecology of the National Park Service. He also knows the names of flowers and trees.



## **Savoring the Psalms**

*Amy Schwartz*

Wednesdays May 20, May 27, June 3, June 17 7-8:15PM Adas Israel

The Book of Psalms always comes as a surprise on first reading--and even more on deeper acquaintance. By turns archaic and modern, anguished and joyful, straightforward and mystifying, these 150 religious poems trace the many moods of human beings as they cry out to G-d. In this continuing class, we will dip into various Psalms as the interests of the class move us--untangling metaphors, comparing translations, tracing the meanings of the words over time. We will read mostly in English, with a look at the Hebrew depending on class preferences.

**Amy Schwartz**, a Washington journalist, has taught many classes for the Jewish Study Center.

## **Celebrate Sholem Aleichem!**

*Rabbi Max Ticktin*

Wednesdays May 20, May 27, June 3 8:15-9:30PM Adas Israel

It's the 150th birthday of the great Yiddish author whose stories about Tevye the Dairyman formed the basis of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. We will delve into his wisdom, humor and resilience. Please obtain either the Schocken Books (Knopf) or Penguin Press paperback edition of *Tevye the Dairyman* from a library or bookstore by the second session.

**Max Ticktin** is a rabbi, associate professor of the Judaic Studies Program at George Washington University and member of Fabrangen.

## **Fish Tales**

*Norman Shore*

Wednesdays June 3, June 10 7-8:15PM Adas Israel

From the Shabbat table to the banquet of Leviathan, this course will read texts from Bible, Talmud, cookbooks and folk literature and trace customs and symbols of fish in the Jewish tradition. Herring and lox will be served.

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

## **Text Study: Talmud in Translation**

*Rabbi Avrom Landesman*

Every Monday 8:30-9:30PM Woodside Synagogue, Silver Spring

The Talmud is a record of rabbinic discussions pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, customs, and history. It is a central text of Rabbinic Judaism, second only to the Bible in importance. So what are you waiting for? Isn't it time you encountered the work that shaped rabbinic Judaism? We're studying the tractate Sanhedrin, which deals with justice and other matters. Everyone is welcome, drop-ins and regulars, of all backgrounds and levels.

**Rabbi Avrom Landesman** has his smicha from Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

# Single-Session Classes

\$15 per class pre-registered and pre-paid \$20 at the door unless otherwise specified

## Thinking about an Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah—What’s Involved?

*Michael Bloom*

Tuesday May 5 7-8:15PM Sixth and I

Missed out on celebrating becoming a bar or bat mitzvah? Or want to make an anniversary of that original ceremony? This one-time session focuses on what’s involved in planning such an event. We’ll learn the “who, what, where, when and why” of the ceremony and celebration. We will also give you suggestions of places in the DC area you can sign up for an ongoing adult bar/bat mitzvah study class.

**Michael Bloom** is an editor, bar mitzvah tutor, lay leader of services and docent at the Sixth and I Street Synagogue.

## Three Rabbis — Talking about G-d

Thursday May 7 7-8:15PM Northern VA JCC

*Rabbi Brett Isslow is the Rabbi of Beth El Congregation of Alexandria*

*Rabbi Gilah Langner, Assistant Rabbi of Northern VA Reconstructionist Congregation,*

*Rabbi Sholom Deitsch is the Rabbi of Chabad of Fairfax*

What's the topic least likely to come up in rabbis' discussions of Judaism? Representatives of the Reform, Reconstructionist and Orthodox movements lead a discussion of our reluctance to "talk about G-d," or directly about spirituality, in synagogues and congregational Hebrew schools.

## The Military Siddur — And Soldiers’ Prayers *Michael Bloom*

Tuesday May 12 7-8:15PM Sixth and I

Who knew there was a special prayerbook for Jewish members of the Armed Services? We will look at that siddur and the special and often unique prayer for and about military personnel and our national security.

**Michael Bloom**, the son of an Air Force Lt. Colonel, teaches on a variety of subjects for us and leads the National Jewish War Veterans Prayer Project.

## Jewish Cultures Across the Globe—India *Nissim Reuben*

Wednesday May 13 7-8:30PM Adas Israel

Not all “slumdogs became millionaires” - come learn about the history of the Jewish communities in India and how they have contributed to Indian society. Includes film and discussion.

**Nissim Reuben** is a program officer on Indian-Jewish-American relations at the American Jewish Committee.

## Yiddish Beyond “Oy!”

*Cantor Maurice Singer*

Tuesday                      May 12                      7-8:15PM                      Sixth and I

This class will offer a taste of the Yiddish language and a brief introduction to its rich history and culture and the true concept of "Yiddishkeit." We'll listen to Yiddish songs and poetry and learn Yiddish sayings and phrases beyond "Oy vey is mir!" -- including some your Bubbe never knew.

**Cantor Maurice Singer** is a native Yiddish speaker and retired ritual director at Adas Israel Synagogue. He runs a Yiddish reading circle in Friendship Heights.

## Ethics According to Rabbi Harvey-And Other Traditional Sources *Michael Bloom*

Tuesday                      May 26                      7-8:15PM                      Sixth and I

Let's learn Jewish ethics from a funny Wild West Rabbi in a graphic novel! The teacher will use the text [The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey: A Graphic Novel of Jewish Wisdom And Wit in the Wild West](#) by Steve Sheinkin. We'll also point you to other new — and older—Jewish literature on ethics or how to live with “right behavior” towards others. With some great new resources this course can give you more background in Jewish ethics when you have to wrestle with challenging decisions and everyday moral issues — while keeping a sense of humor! (Also a Jewish tradition.)

**Michael Bloom** — yup, same guy! — is also a book editor and humor writing instructor.

## Food Traditions: Where did your family come from . . . ? *Jonina Duker*

Wednesday                      May 27                      8:15-9:30PM                      Adas Israel

Our families all immigrated from somewhere. . . Interested in discussing family food traditions and recipes? Did you know you can tell what section of your family came from by how sweet your families gefilte fish recipe is? The discussion facilitator has some background on food customs and preferences from different communities. Get to know each other through food -- NOW HOW JEWISH IS THAT!

**Jonina Duker** has taught classes about midrash, prayer and genealogy for the Jewish Study Center previously and has been eating seriously for many years.

## Jews and Basketball

*David Vyorst*

Tuesday                      June 23                      7-8:15PM                      Sixth and I

The teacher will describe the evolution of basketball from a game played with ash cans on tenement steps by poor immigrant kids, to a global cultural phenomenon is truly metaphoric of the American 20th century. We will also cover the historical participation of the Jewish community with the sport, and the incredible growth and globalization of the game — which now is even tremendously popular in Israel, where the Tel Aviv Maccabi team won the Euroleague championships in 2004 and 2005.



**David Vyorst** is the producer of the feature film, *The First Basketball*, about the history of the sport and the Jewish community.

# Registration Spring 2009

| Session   | Date                  | # Attend/<br>Fee                                  | Total<br>Cost |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Special Events</b>                                 |                       |   |               |
| Jewish A Cappella Concert                             | Sun 4/26              | ___ x \$25<br><br>___ x \$10<br>(Student with ID) |               |
| JSC goes to a Nationals Game                          | Sun 6/21              | ___ x \$14  |               |
| Hike—   | Sun 5/10              | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Judaism and Environment                               | (Rain) 6/7            | ___ x \$30  |               |
| <b>Single Session Classes</b>                         |                       |   |               |
| Thinking about an Adult Bar/<br>Bat Mitzvah?          | Tues 5/5              | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Three Rabbis—JCCNV                                    | Thurs 5/7             | ___ x \$15  |               |
| The Military Siddur                                   | Tues 5/12             | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Jewish Cultures: India                                | Wed 5/13              | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Yiddish Sayings                                       | Tues 5/12             | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Ethics from Rabbi Harvey                              | Tues 5/25             | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Sholem Aleichem—<br><u>Teve, the Dairyman Stories</u> | Wed 5/20<br>5/27, 6/3 | ___ x \$40  |               |
| Food Traditions                                       | Wed 5/27              | ___ x \$15  |               |
| Texts about Fish                                      | Wed<br>6/3, 6/10      | ___ x \$15<br>___ x \$30                          |               |
| Jews and Sports                                       | Tues 6/16             | ___ x \$15  |               |

**You may register by:**

Mail:                   Administrative office:  
                           Jewish Study Center  
                           5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #180  
                           Washington DC 20015

Phone:               (202) 332-1221

Email:               beth@jewishstudycenter.org

Website:           www.jewishstudycenter.org

| Session   | Date   | # Attend/<br>Fee             | Total<br>Cost |
|---|--|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Multi-Session Courses</b>                                      |  |                              |               |
| Road Ahead for Israel:<br>Community Voices<br>Wednesdays 7-8:15PM | 5/6, 5/20<br>5/27, 6/3<br>6/10                     | ___ x \$15<br><br>___ x \$75 |               |
| Introduction to Judaism<br>Wed 7-8:15PM                           | 5/6, 5/13,<br>5/20, 5/27<br>6/3, 6/10              | ___ x \$85                   |               |
| Beyond the Basics<br>Wed 8:30-9:40PM                              | 5/6, 5/13<br>5/20, 5/27<br>6/3, 6/10               | ___ x \$85                   |               |
| Psalms<br>Wed 7-8:15PM  | 5/20, 5/27<br>6/3, 6/17                            | ___ x \$15<br>___ x \$55     |               |
| Yoga for All<br>Wed 7-8:15PM                                      | 4/29, 5/6<br>5/13, 5/20<br>5/27, 6/3<br>6/10, 6/17 | ___ x \$15<br>___ x \$100    |               |
| <b>Subtotal:</b>  |  |                              | _____         |
| 10% Member disc. for JSC, Adas Israel, Fabrangen Members:         |  |                              | _____         |
| Add a JSC Donation:   |  |                              | _____         |
| <b>Total Payment Due:</b>   |  |                              | _____         |

**Payment Method**

\_\_\_ Check    \_\_\_ Credit Card    \_\_\_ Paypal

*Make Checks payable to Jewish Study Center and mail to administrative office.*

*Credit card payments can be made using info below or via **PaypaL** on our website.*

**Credit Card Payment Information**

\_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_ Mastercard    \_\_\_ AmEx    \_\_\_ Discover

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**Andrew Davis**

**Amy Schwartz**

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**Paul Bardack**

**Executive Director**

**Beth Adler**

**JSC Classes—Coming to a location near you!**

- ◆ **Adas Israel** 2850 Quebec Street, NW, DC (1 block north of Cleveland Park Metro)
- ◆ **Sixth and I Historic Synagogue** 6th and I Street, NW, DC (1 block NE of Gallery Place Metro)
- ◆ **Northern VA Jewish Community Center** 8900 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, VA



**Jewish Study  
Center**

**Administrative Office**

5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
#180

Washington DC 20015

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