

Jewish Study Center
W a s h i n g t o n , D C

Winter Semester begins January 24!

Mondays – 7PM at Tifereth Israel Congregation
16th and Juniper Streets NW

THREE CLASSIC MIDRASHIM: TALMUD AS HYPERTEXT—Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7
THE BLOOD LIBEL—March 7, 14, 21, 28
A SHIUR ON CLIMATE CHANGE—March 28

Tuesdays – 7PM at National Museum of American Jewish Military History
1811 R Street, NW—near Dupont Circle North metro

CONTEMPORARY KABBALAH AND THE MADONNA PHENOMENON—Jan. 25, Feb. 1
“THE QUIET AMERICANS”—Feb. 6

Wednesdays—7PM and 8:30PM at Adas Israel Congregation
2850 Quebec St., NW – near Cleveland Park metro

YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW 100 WORDS OF HEBREW— Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9
TRANSLATION AS COMMENTARY—Feb. 2, 9, 16, 22
JEWISH LIFE IN CIVIL WAR WASHINGTON—Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 2
EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE SPANISH INQUISITION—March 2, 16, 23, 30
PSALMS—March 2, 16, 23, 30

JOIN US FOR **THE 20TH ANNUAL LATKE-HAMENTASCH SYMPOSIUM** **WEDNESDAY MARCH 9 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

Get in the mood for Purim as our panel of experts debates the merit of the *latke* over the *hamentasch*!

Materials will be presented for in-depth research by the audience.

\$12 JSC and Adas members, \$18 non-members



[Tickets can be purchased at – www.jewishstudycenter.org](http://www.jewishstudycenter.org)
(Co-sponsored by the Jewish Study Center and Adas Israel)

At Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec St., NW — near Cleveland Park metro

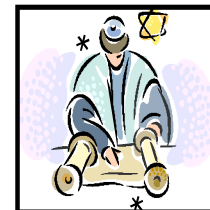
Monday nights at Tifereth Israel
7701 16th Street (and Juniper Street) NW,

Three Classic Midrashim: Talmud as Hypertext

Instructor: Stephen Berer

Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 7-8:15 P.M.

In this course we will read three pearls (midrashim) from the Talmud, and analyze their literary, political, psychological, and social implications. In the process, we will uncover their lasting impacts on Jewish thought and literature, and their prescient understanding of the human condition. The three midrashim are: The Oven of Achnai, Kamtza and Bar Kamtza, The Four Who Entered Pardaes (the garden, paradise).



Stephen Berer, a newcomer to DC, is a writer of poetry, focusing on the existential and spiritual issues of Jewish identity in the world today. He has taught Jewish Studies in a Jewish day school, and worked as an investment analyst, developing econometric models to forecast market indices. His poetry and illuminations can be found at:

<http://www.shivvete.com> and <http://shivvete.blogspot.com>.

3 sessions: JSC and Tifereth Israel members \$40; non-members \$55

The Blood Libel—The History and Meaning an Anti-Semitic Canard

Instructor: Morris Rodenstein

March 7, 14, 21, 28 7-8:15 P.M.

March, 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the notorious Kiev blood libel case in which Mendel Beilis, a Jewish brickyard foreman, was accused of brutally murdering a 13 year old Christian boy just before Passover. Subsequent events threatened Russia's 5 million Jews and captured worldwide attention. The blood libel goes back more than 2100 years, a tragic illustration of the devastation that can and has been wrought by twisted anti-Semitic fear and ignorance. This class will examine the history of the blood libel and the disturbing and macabre new twist with which it continues even today..

Morris Rodenstein is a long-time Tifereth Israel member, former Fabrangen coordinator and has worked for My Jewish Learning. His paternal grandmother Celia, was a teenager in Kiev at the time, and Mendel Beilis was her first cousin.

4 sessions: JSC and Tifereth Israel members \$55; non-members \$75

A Shiur on Climate Science

Instructor: Joelle Novey

March 28 7-8:15PM

Come view — or review — what is happening to our world in the era of global warming. We'll use Jewish perspectives to reflect on what we learn together in hevruta (fellowship), and support each other in articulating how we can respond -- in our homes, in our Jewish communities, and politically.

Joelle G. Novey directs Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light, which supports hundreds of local congregations of all faiths in responding to climate change (www.gwipl.org). She davens at Tikkun Leil Shabbat, Minyan Segulah, Fabrangen, and Tifereth Israel.

JSC and Tifereth Israel members \$15; non-members \$20

**Tuesday nights at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History
1811 R Street, NW—2 blocks from Dupont Circle N metro**

Contemporary Kabbalah—the Madonna Phenomenon vs. Jewish Renewal

Instructor: Jay McCrensky

Jan. 25, Feb. 2

7-8:15 P.M.

This two session class is a condensed introduction to Kabbalah — contrasting the two leading schools of contemporary American Kabbalah — that of the Kabbalah Centre and that of Jewish Renewal/Neo-Hasidism. Students will gain an understanding of what attracts seekers to each school, what can be considered legitimate historical Kabbalah, what are innovations, and how might we combine the strengths of each school to forge a new Jewish mysticism and spirituality to revitalize our own Judaism.

Dr. Jay McCrensky, has studied Kabbalah for over 30 years. He holds a Ph.D. in Kabbalah and Jewish Studies and is the author of *Understanding Evil: Insights from Kabbalah* and the soon to be published, *Receiving Holiness: Understanding Judaism through Kabbalah*. Jay is also a member of Fabranken Havurah, head of Machaya Klezmer Band, a ski instructor and an investment banker.

2 sessions: JSC members \$30, non-members \$40

Sunday Feb. 6 2-4 P.M.

Quiet Americans: Stories — Reading and Discussion

With Author Erika Dreifus

(Open to the public free of charge)

Author *Erika Dreifus*, granddaughter of a Jewish World War II veteran, writes fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Her recent work has appeared in *Moment magazine* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, and she is a past winner of the David Dornstein Memorial Creative Writing Contest (for fiction on Jewish themes). She earned a PhD in history from Harvard University, is a contributing editor for *The Writer* magazine and an advisory board member for *J Journal: New Writing on Justice*. She maintains two blogs: Practicing Writing and My Machberet, the latter of which focuses on matters of specifically Jewish literary and cultural interest.

Quiet Americans, published by Last Light Studio, is Erika's first book of fiction and was inspired in large part by her paternal grandparents, German Jews who immigrated to the United States in the late 1930s. Portions of the proceeds from sales of *Quiet Americans* will be donated to The Blue Card, which supports survivors of Nazi persecution and their families in the United States.

About **The Blue Card**: Founded in 1934 in Germany to help Jews fleeing Nazi oppression, the organization took its name from the original blue cards that were issued: each time a donation was made, a stamp was put on the card to keep a record. Today, when many Jewish community funds support memorials for the Holocaust, education programs, and other causes, The Blue Card has only one mission: to get much-needed funds either on an emergency basis or as an ongoing stipend to indigent needy Holocaust survivors. To date, The Blue Card has provided over \$18 million to thousands of survivors and their families. In 2009, The Blue Card distributed more than \$1.2 million in financial grants. Last year, The Blue Card helped more than 1,700 Holocaust survivors in need.

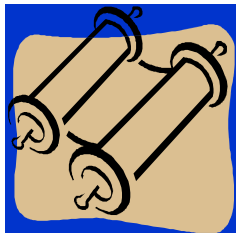


Co-sponsored with the National Museum of American Jewish Military History

1811 R Street, NW Washington DC 20009

(202) 265 6280 www.nmajmh.org

**Wednesday nights at Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec St NW, DC—
1 block from Cleveland Park metro**



Translation as Commentary: Comparing English Versions of the Bible

Instructor: Norman Shore Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 8:30-9:40PM

Why did God “harden” Pharaoh’s heart? Would you answer differently if God had merely made Pharaoh “strong-willed”? This class will examine the significance of different translations of the Tanakh, or Hebrew Bible. Every week the class will read a short selection from the Tanakh in Hebrew with several English translations—for instance, God making Pharaoh “hard-hearted” or Rachel meeting Jacob at the well—and then use the different translations in combination with traditional commentaries to explore different readings of the text, literary issues, and language problems. We will read primarily Jewish translations with some Christian ones, e.g. New Jewish Publication Society, Robert Alter, King James, Everett Fox, Contemporary Torah (gender sensitive JPS), Aryeh Kaplan, Stone Chumash, New American Standard etc. This would also be a useful tool for people preparing divrei torah (talks on the Torah). *Norman Shore* is a scholar and veteran teacher for the Jewish Study Center and elsewhere in the Washington Jewish community.

4 sessions: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75

You May Already Know 100 Words of Hebrew

Instructor: Dan Hecker

Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9 7:00-8:15PM

Learning Hebrew may sound intimidating—but you’d be surprised. Many words are used in everyday conversation, in common prayers and in familiar rituals such as the Passover Seder. Starting with “Rosh Hashanah” and “Shema” we will develop a vocabulary that includes numbers, body parts, food and geography. Knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet is not necessary.

Dan Hecker is a retired economist and Adas Israel who studied at yeshiva and continues to learn. He last taught this class in 2001.

3 sessions: JSC and Adas members \$45 per session, non-members \$55 per session

Jewish Life in Civil War Washington

Instructor: Laura Apelbaum with guest lecturers

Feb. 16, 23, March 2 7:00-8:15PM

(Co-sponsored with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.)

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s beginning, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington has prepared an exhibit and book, *Jewish Life in Mr. Lincoln’s City*, that illuminate a difficult era, and a divided city and nation, through the prism of the small but growing Jewish communities of Washington and of Alexandria, VA. These talks will look at the different communities of Jews in Civil War Washington—soldiers, spies, immigrants and others. Copies of the book *Jewish Life in Mr. Lincoln’s City* will be available for sale. Look for a related walking tour when the weather turns warm!

Laura Apelbaum is executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

3 sessions: JSC, Adas and JHSGW members \$45, non-members \$55

**Wednesday nights at Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec St NW—
1 block from Cleveland Park metro**

Jews in Spain: Events Leading up to the Spanish Inquisition

Instructor: Jeffrey Gorsky

March 2, 16, 23, 30 7:00-8:30PM

As Monty Python said: "No one expects the Spanish Inquisition."

The four sessions will cover the following aspects of this key moment in Jewish history:

- 1) "Convivencia"—How the Jews prospered in Islamic and Christian Spain.
- 2) The end of tolerance. Shifting attitudes by the Church and State lead to the conversion of a third or more of the Spanish Jews to Christianity.
- 3) The New Christians. The rise of the converts and their scapegoating during political unrest in 15th Century Castile.
- 4) The Spanish Inquisition. The Inquisition from its inception in 1481 to the expulsion of the Jews in 1492.

Jeffrey Gorsky is a career State Department attorney who served in Spain for two years, and worked another two years as the State Department intelligence analyst for Iberia. He has been working for the past four years on the book, **Jewish Blood**, a history of the Spanish Jews. An article adapted from the book can be found at:

http://www.jewishmag.com/128mag/spanish_forced_conversion/spanish_forced_conversion.htm

4 sessions: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75

Savoring the Psalms

Instructor: Amy Schwartz

March 2, 16, 23, 30 8:30-9:40PM

The Book of Psalms always comes as a surprise on first reading--and even more on deeper acquaintance. 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 journalist, has taught many Study Center classes on poetry. She is vice president for education and youth at Adas Israel.

4 sessions: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75

About the Jewish Study Center

The Jewish Study Center was founded in 1978 as an independent non-profit institute of adult Jewish education in the Washington, D.C. area. The mission of the Jewish Study Center is to provide classes and programs of Jewish study in the widest breadth of topics as possible; and to accomplish this in an atmosphere where any person, regardless of background or level of current involvement, can feel comfortable to study and to establish a serious relationship with the Jewish tradition.

www.Jewishstudycenter.org

Email: info@jewishstudycenter.org

Phone: 202-332-1221

Two Walking Tours

Old Town, Alexandria Sunday March 27 1– 2:30 P.M.

Learn Old Town Alexandria's long and storied Jewish history, from the 1850s to today. Includes the sites of two former synagogues and several Jewish businesses along King Street-including some that show traces of past Jewish owners.

—Start outside of the Lyceum (201 South Washington Street), ends at the former site of Agudas Agudas Achim (508 Wolfe Street).

Downtown Washington Sunday April 10 1-2:30 P.M.

Learn what it was like to live and worship as a Jew from 1850-1950 in the historic Seventh Street now known as Chinatown. This walk includes visiting the sites of four former synagogues.

—Start at Albert and Lillian Small Jewish Museum (701 Third Street, 3rd and G Street NW), ends at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue (6001 I Street, 6th and I Street NW).

Cost for each tour: \$15 JHSGW and JSC members; \$20 non-members

For more information go to www.jhsgw.org

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.JEWISHSTUDYCENTER.ORG

**FOR DETAILS ABOUT
THE JEWISH STUDY CENTER'S UPCOMING
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Is There Something About Judaism That You'd Love to Share?
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The Jewish Study Center Announces

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater Presents Theater J's Production of

THE CHOSEN

March 8–27

Adapted & Directed by
Aaron Posner

From the novel by
Chaim Potok

SAVE \$10
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Featuring
**Rick Foucheux
& Edward Gero**

With
**Aaron Davidman,
Joshua Morgan & Derek Thompson**

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(202) 488-3300 - theaterj.org**



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For information about registration, classes or to make donations go on our website:

www.jewishstudycenter.org

Or contact us at:

(202) 332-1221 or info@jewishstudycenter.org

Yes, I want to support the JSC!

Friend \$180 ___ Sustainer \$360 ___ Partner \$540 ____

Pillar \$900 ___ Benefactor \$1800 ___

Your donation amount \$_____

(We are a 501(c) 3 organization; your contribution is tax deductible.)

I want to become a member (or renew my membership)!

JSC Single Annual Membership: \$18 (student) ___ "L'chaim"
 \$36 ___ "Double l'chaim"

JSC Family Annual Membership: \$72 ___ "Quadruple l'chaim"

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**Address: Jewish Study Center
5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #180
Washington DC 20015**

Registration—Winter 2011 Semester

Classes at Tifereth Israel—Mondays				Classes at NMAJMH—Dupont Circle—Tuesdays			
Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost	Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost
<u>THREE CLASSIC MIDRASHIM: TALMUDIC HYPERTEXT</u>	Jan. 24, 31 Feb. 7 7-8:15PM	__ X \$40 JSC, TI members __ X \$55 non-members		<u>KABBALAH AND MADONNA</u>	Jan. 25, Feb. 1 7-8:15PM	__ x \$30 JSC, JWV members __ x \$40 non-members	
<u>THE BLOOD LIBEL</u>	March 7, 14, 21, 28 7-8:15PM	__ x \$55 JSC, TI members __ x \$75 non- members					
<u>SHIUR ON CLIMATE CHANGE</u>	March 28 7-8:15PM	__ x \$15 JSC, TI members __ x \$20 non-members					

You may register through our website: www.Jewishstudycenter.org

or mail to: **Jewish Study Center**
5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #180
Washington DC 20015

Email: info@jewishstudycenter.org

Phone: 202-332-1221

FOR DONATIONS TO COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC):

OUR CFC NO. IS 29158

Registration—Fall 2010 Semester

Classes at Adas Israel—Wednesdays			
Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost
<u>TRANSLATION AS COMMENTARY</u>	Feb. 2, 8, 16, 23 8:30-9:40PM	___ x 55 JSC, Adas members ___ x 75 non-members	
<u>100 HEBREW WORDS YOU ALREADY KNOW</u>	Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9 7-8:15PM	___ x 45 JSC, Adas members ___ x 55 non-members	
<u>MR. LINCOLN'S JEWISH CITY</u>	Feb. 16, 23 March 2 7-8:15PM	___ x 45 JSC, Adas members ___ x 55 non-members	
<u>SPANISH INQUISITION</u>	March 2, 16, 23, 30 7-8:15PM	___ x 55 JSC, Adas members ___ x 75 non-members	
<u>SAVORING THE PSALMS</u>	March 2, 16, 23, 30 8:30-9:40PM	___ x 55 JSC, Adas members ___ x 75 non-members	
<u>LATKE-HAMENTASCH DEBATE</u>	March 9 7:30-9:30PM	___ X \$12 JSC, Adas members ___ x \$18 non-members	

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Jewish Study Center

Administrative Office

5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #180

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Jewish Study Center
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JSC Class Locations—near metro stops!

Tifereth Israel—7701 16th Street (and Juniper St), NW, DC
(S4, S2 bus, 1 mile south of Silver Spring Metro)

National Museum of American Jewish Military History—1811 R Street, NW, DC
(1 block NE of Dupont Circle North Metro)

Adas Israel—2850 Quebec Street, NW, DC
(1 block north of Cleveland Park Metro)

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