

north shore  
congregation israel

ADULT  
LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
2017-2018

»—————«

*These are things that are limitless,  
of which a person enjoys the fruit of this world,  
while the principle remains in the world to come.  
They are: honoring one's father and mother,  
engaging in deeds of compassion,  
arriving early for study, morning and evening,  
dealing graciously with guests, visiting the sick,  
providing for the wedding couple,  
accompanying the dead for burial,  
being devoted in prayer,  
and making peace among people.*

***But the study of Torah encompasses them all.”***

— *Morning liturgy*



# THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



## STUDY THE TALMUD WITH RABBI GEFFEN

*Mondays | 1:00pm - 2:00pm*

*Fall: September 25-December 11, 2017*

*Winter: January 22-March 12, 2018*

*Spring: April 9-May 21, 2018*

Join Rabbi Geffen as we continue the study of *Tractate Brachot*. All are welcome. If you want to purchase your own copy of the Talmud translation we use for class, *Koren Talmud Bavli, Berachot* by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, you can find it on Amazon.com. RSVP to Miriam Biales, miriamb@nsci.org or call 847-835-0724.

## MIDDAY MONDAYS

Midday Mondays opens the door to myriad topics – music, literature, current events – who knows! Midday Mondays features mini-series taught in multi-week increments offered 11:30am-12:30pm on Mondays throughout the year. These sessions will be taught by Rabbi Lisa Greene, Rabbi Ryan Daniels, Cantor David Goldstein, Dr. Roberta Goodman & Buddy Schreiber. RSVP to Miriam Biales, miriamb@nsci.org or call 847-835-0724.

### HAVING FUN WITH MIDRASH!

**With Cantor Goldstein**

*October, 9, 16 & 23*

### AN HISTORICAL EXPLORATION OF SEPHARDI JEWRY AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL

**With Dr. Goodman**

*November 6, 13 & 20*

**With Rabbi Daniels**

*November 27, December 4 & 11*

Join Rabbi Daniels to watch and then discuss *Every Face Has a Name* (2015), Magnus Gertten's award-winning documentary. Watch Gertten's team find and interview survivors from German concentration camps portrayed in recently discovered archival film showing their arrival in Malmo, Sweden, on April 28, 1945.



### CHANTING THE PROPHETS (HAFTARAH CANTILLATION) with Cantor David Goldstein

*Mondays, October 9, 16, 30, November 6,*

*December 4, 11 & January 22 | 6:00pm - 7:15pm*

This course is designed to provide the practical knowledge of cantillation for the all of the Haftarah Portions during the course of the year including Shabbat, festivals (Excluding the *m'gillot*) and Holy Days. Prior Torah cantillation study would be recommended but not required. RSVP to Miriam Biales, miriamb@nsci.org or call 847-835-0724.

## CINEMA NSCI

Join fellow movie buffs for a film viewing.

Each film will have a Jewish connection with a brief conversation led by Rabbi Wendi Geffen.

*Wednesday, October 18, 2017 | 7:00 pm*

*Wednesday, November 15, 2017 | 7:00 pm*

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017 | 11:30 am*

*Tuesday, February 6, 2018 | 11:30 am*

*Wednesday, March 14, 2018 | 11:30 am*

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018 | 7:00 pm*

Open to the community. Light refreshments.

RSVP's encouraged, [susane@nsci.org](mailto:susane@nsci.org), 847-835-0724.

Please park in the north lot and enter thru the north education doors. We will meet in the Tross Family Education Center.



## FALL LEARNING

### LEGACY LETTERS CLASSES

**With Carole Mark Gingiss**

*Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm*



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 new class that will guide you, step by step, to write your own legacy letter, with easy-to-understand handouts throughout the five 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 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](mailto:rabbigreene@nsci.org) or contact Carole Mark Gingiss, [cmgingiss@att.net](mailto:cmgingiss@att.net). Class size is limited. Registration is required. RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.

## WISE AGING

Co-Facilitated by Rabbi Nina J Mizrahi, RJE and Bev Shurman Lavitt, LCSW

Every other Wednesday morning, 10:00am - 12:00pm, beginning October 18th

Wise Aging provides a special opportunity to find tools to navigate the challenges of aging as we find joy and meaning in our lives. This is more of a chavurah (group of friends) than a class. There will be opportunities to reflect on stories from your own life, to listen deeply to others, to study the Jewish tradition that venerates aging and its wisdom, and to experience the richness of the shared moment.

Former class members share their thoughts on what they learned through *Wise Aging* —

*“Helped me focus on my strengths and how they developed throughout my life”*

*“The practices of gratitude and compassionate listening”*

*“Examination of my life and making important decisions about my aging”*

*“Becoming a better listener”*

*“Working on specific aspects of myself”*

*“Sharing stories and blessings”*



Interested? Contact Bev Shurman Lavitt, bevshurmanlavitt@gmail.com, or Nina Mizrahi, ninajanemizrahi@gmail.com to talk before joining us.

## PARENTING WITH CONVICTION



**Raising Spiritually Aware Children** – Tuesday, October 3 | 7:30pm

**Raising Socially Conscious Children** – Tuesday, November 14 | 7:30pm

Parenting is a gift, a profoundly challenging gift in our world of choices at every turn. So many of us wonder how best to parent our values and how to raise grateful, socially responsible children.



Join us at the **Glencoe Public Library** for community conversations that will provide developmentally appropriate, practical ideas for parents to increase the awe, appreciation and awareness of our children and our families.



These nondenominational conversations will be facilitated by Reverend Daphne Cody (St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church), Rabbi Lisa Greene (North Shore Congregation Israel), and Kathy Livingston, LCSW (Family Service of Glencoe).



## **GIRL DRAMA**

**Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW of Jewish Child and Family Service  
and Rabbi Lisa Greene**

6th - 8th grade parents – *Sunday, September 24 | 9:15am - 10:30am*

3rd - 5th grade parents – *Sunday, October 15 | 9:15am - 10:30am*

Your daughter comes home from school upset and crying. You wonder... What should I say to my daughter? Should I call the other girls' parents? Is it OK to call the school? What will this do to my friendship with the moms of the other girls? What if my daughter is the one being mean? Why is this so difficult?! Parenting is a journey, don't take it alone! This program will explore real life situations and provide tangible tools that you can use immediately in dealing with your daughter. RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



## **RAISING EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY BOYS**

**Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW of Jewish Child and Family Service  
and Rabbi Lisa Greene**

6th - 8th grade parents – *Sunday, October 29 | 9:15am - 10:30am*

3rd - 5th grade parents – *Sunday, November 12 | 9:15am - 10:30am*

You think you want to raise an “emotionally healthy boy” but what does that mean? What is emotional health? What should you do? Do you buy him dolls, teach him to cook? What if other kids make fun of him? Why does it feel so hard, and sometimes so wrong? Learn about the “man box” and what parents and community can do to break boys and men out of it. RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



## TEENS, DRUGS, AND PARENTING, A CONVERSATION

**Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW of Jewish Child and Family Service**

*Tuesday, November 7 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

What is it about teens? Why and how do they go from cute kid to eye-rolling teen in the blink of an eye? What is the developmental job of a teenager, and how does a parent support the work the teen needs to do? Why are drinking and drugs so often part of the life stage and what can parents do to keep their kids safe? Gain wisdom from some of the expert psychologists of this generation as shared by a social worker and parent.

RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



## NACHMAN SCHOLAR SERIES

**Jewish American Theatre - with Playwright James Sherman**

*Mondays, October 9, 16, 23 & 30; November 6 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

We will read & discuss plays by 20th century American Jewish playwrights that speak to classic themes of the American Jewish experience. Whether the plays are familiar or new, no doubt all will speak to our lives, family history and sense of Jewish identity. Each class will focus on a different play so that the scope of the course will be varied and far-reaching. Our instructor, James Sherman, has carefully selected each of the plays with an eye toward how the American Jewish experience is explored through the plays of American Jewish playwrights.

*October 9 - Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller*

*October 16 - Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon*

*October 23 - Conversations with My Father by Herb Gardner*

*October 30 - The Sisters Rosensweig by Wendy Wasserstein*

*November 6 - The God of Isaac by James Sherman*

Class participants will be asked to read each play prior to class. (*Please obtain your own copy of the first play, Death of a Salesman. Subsequent plays will be available for purchase during class.*) Registration is required. There is no fee for the class itself, but there is cost for each of the plays, some of which are available in the public library. To RSVP contact Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.

James Sherman was a theatre student at Illinois State University in the early 1970's. He began his professional career as a writer and performer with The Second City in Chicago and received an MFA from Brandeis University. Mr. Sherman currently teaches Playwriting and Improvisation at Columbia College Chicago and DePaul University. He has been a teacher of Playwriting and Acting on the faculties of The Second City Training Center, Chicago Dramatists Workshop, and Victory Gardens Theater. He is a playwright, having written *The God of Isaac*, *Beau Jest* and other dramatic pieces seen on stage.

The Nachman Family Adult Education Series was conceived by Rosalind (ז"ל) and Dr. Adolph Nachman (ז"ל) 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. *Tze ulmad* – go and study.

## WSNCI & RABBI GREENE ARE TAKING A TRIP!

### A Taste of Jewish NYC!

October 5-8, 2017

Scheduled activities:

- Walking tour of Lower East side
- Shabbat services at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York
- Your choice of The Jewish Museum OR The 9/11 Museum/Ground Zero
- Group Tour of Ellis Island



Hotel accommodations at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. For more details, cost and registration information contact: Karen Kohn, karnie18@aol.com.



### SISTERS IN THE SUKKAH

Tuesday October 10 | 11:30am - 1:30pm

Prepare & share your favorite fall recipe (lunch or dessert for 8) and we'll sample them all! Rabbi Greene will guide us in Sukkot ritual as we shake the lulav! Look for registration in weekly email.

## GLASS CEILING BREAKERS? BERURIAH AND OTHER FEMALE JEWISH "ONCE-KNOWNs"

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Sundays, October 22, 29 & November 5 | 9:15am - 10:45am

Before there was Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, there was Beruriah! Meet her, and other ancient glass ceiling breakers in this exciting class designed for anyone interested in expanding their understanding of our tradition's narratives and history.

RSVP to Miriam Biales, miriamb@nsci.org, or call 847-835-0724.



## THE 2017 DAVIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

Featuring former United States Ambassador to the State of Israel Dan Shapiro



Thursday, November 2 | 7:00pm

Daniel Shapiro served as the United States Ambassador to Israel from July 2011 until the end of the Obama Administration. As Ambassador, Shapiro won praise from leaders of both countries for his deft management of the U.S.-Israel relationship during Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, the Iran nuclear agreement,

regional instability, and periods of significant bilateral tension and disagreement.

Please check the weekly synagogue email for lecture topic, and RSVP information.

## THE MINDFUL OR MINDLESS LIFE

### Rabbi Wendi Geffen

*Fridays, November 3, 10 & 17 | 10:30am - 12:00pm*

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 with 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. The only requirement for the class is a willing heart and open mind. RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



## SPEAKER: RABBI DALIA MARX, PH.D., HUC-JIR



Rabbi Dalia Marx is a Associate Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at the Jerusalem campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and teaches in various academic institutions in Israel and Europe. Marx earned her doctorate at the Hebrew University and her rabbinic ordination at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem and Cincinnati. She will join us for two evenings of adult learning.

### The Kaddish: A Jewish Greenhouse of Ideas

*Monday, November 27 | 7:00 pm*

No prayer evokes stronger emotional responses among Jews than the Mourner's Kaddish. It has come to be a powerful symbol, regardless of its original function and regardless of the wording or theology the prayer manifests. In this session, we will deal with the Kaddish, its emergence as the mourner's prayer, and some of its more surprising versions composed in the kibbutz movements.

### "May all that breaths praise *Yah*": The Psalms in our Prayers

*Monday, December 4 | 7:00 pm*

"Now, I've heard there was a secret chord, that David played and pleased the Lord" (L. Cohen). We will discuss some of the secrets of the psalms and see where they have entered Jewish prayer -- you'll be surprised to learn what psalms you already know. We will explore some of the issues contemporary liberal Jews have with them.

To RSVP for Rabbi Dalia Marx lectures, please contact Miriam Biales at [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org), or 847-835-0724.

## WINTER LEARNING

### THE MOURNER'S KADDISH FOR BEGINNERS

**Rabbi Wendi Geffen**

*Wednesday, January 17 | 10:30am - 12:00pm*

*Wednesday, May 23 | 6:00pm - 7:30pm*

So many of us never learned to say the Kaddish, yet often find ourselves feeling awkward or embarrassed when at services or a *shivah minyan* unable to join in. Join Rabbi Geffen for an informative and instructive session on the Kaddish. This class is designed for those who DO NOT YET KNOW how to say the Kaddish. RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



### DIVE INTO MIDRASH: *EXODUS RABBAH*

**Rabbi Ryan Daniels**

*Saturdays, January 20, February 3, 17, 24 & March 3*

*11:15am - 12:15pm*

Why did the Biblical authors waste valuable real-estate in Torah to emphasize Jacob came to Egypt with his family? Isn't it implied in the first verse? This is just the first of many questions the Rabbis ask in *Exodus Rabbah*, an 11th – 12th century midrashic work on Exodus. Join Rabbi Daniels after Shabbat Morning *Minyan Service* for an interactive study of this fascinating text. An understanding of Hebrew is not required — all are welcome! RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.

### CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LITERATURE

**Neil Rigler**

*Mondays, January 8, 22, 29, February 5 & 26 | 7:15pm*

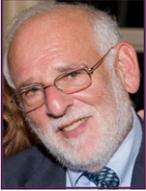
Explore contemporary Jewish stories, poetry, and plays with NSCI's beloved teacher Neil Rigler. Each week a different piece of literature will be read in class, followed by thought provoking and entertaining discussion. No pre-reading necessary. Bring a friend! RSVP to Miriam Biales, [miriamb@nsci.org](mailto:miriamb@nsci.org) or call 847-835-0724.



**WE WERE SLAVES.  
WE WERE FREED. LET'S EAT.**

**Rabbi Ryan Daniels**

*Wednesdays March 7, 14 & 21 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm*



**ADULT LEARNING**  
**with Rabbi Steven Mason**

*Mondays, March 5, 12 & 19 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

**INTRO TO JUDAISM**



Intro to Judaism is an 18 session class teaching the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice. This course is perfect for interfaith couples, those from different faith backgrounds considering conversion, and Jews looking for an adult-level introduction. NSCI and Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism will be hosting an Intro to Judaism class beginning January 2018. Rabbi Daniels

and Dr. Goodman will be teaching this class at NSCI. For more information or to register contact Joy Wasserman, [jbwasserman@urj.org](mailto:jbwasserman@urj.org).

**FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL OF ADULT JEWISH LEARNING**

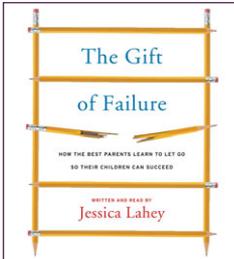
**Are you looking for a profound understanding of  
what it means to be Jewish?**

Melton sets the standard for high-quality, text-based, interactive Jewish study by offering world-class curriculum that informs and inspires people from all knowledge-levels and backgrounds. For a complete listing of Melton Chicago area offerings for 5778, visit: <http://bjehicago.org/melton-brochure>, or contact Rolly Cohen, [rolly@bjehicago.org](mailto:rolly@bjehicago.org).



## PARENTING BOOK DISCUSSION - WINTER/SPRING 2018

Tracey Lipsig Kite, LCSW of Jewish Child and Family Service  
and Rabbi Lisa Greene



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.

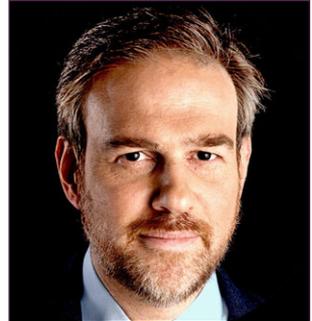
If you are interested in participating in this discussion in Winter/Spring 2018, please contact Lisa Goosmann at [lgoosmann@nsci.org](mailto:lgoosmann@nsci.org) or 847-835-0724 to let her know your best times — Sunday morning, weeknight or weekday. We will plan with this information in hand.

## SPRING LEARNING

### JUF ANNUAL EVENT - BRET STEPHENS

*Tuesday, April 10 / 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm*

Bret L. Stephens joined *The New York Times* as an Op-Ed columnist after a long career with *The Wall Street Journal*, where he was most recently deputy editorial-page editor and, for 11 years, foreign affairs columnist. Before that, he was editor in chief of *The Jerusalem Post*. At *The Post* he oversaw the paper's news, editorial and digital operations and its international editions, and also wrote a weekly column. He has reported from around the world and interviewed scores of world leaders. Mr. Stephens is the author of *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*, released in November 2014. He is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including two honorary doctorates and the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.



## ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE ON MAY 20, 2018!

Our current Adult B'nei Mitzvah class of 17 adults spanning eight decades in age will be called to the Torah as b'nei mitzvah on Shavuot, May 20, 2018 after a year and a half of study. Each week the students gather to learn Hebrew, study Torah, prayer, Jewish practice and belief — and reflect on their own Jewish meaning and doing. Come celebrate with them. We know you will be inspired! If you are interested in becoming an adult bar or bat mitzvah, please talk to Rabbi Greene. We will start a new class after this class has marked their sacred ritual.



### NORDENBERG SCHOLAR SERIES SPEAKER: RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

*June 1 - 3, 2018*

Selected by *Newsweek* magazine in 2009 as the most influential rabbi in the country and described in a *Washington Post* profile as the “quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill,” Rabbi David Saperstein represented the Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) for forty years. In 2004 and 2006, *The Wall Street Journal* and the Religion News Service respectively described him as among the country’s most influential shapers of religious issues in national elections.

More information on Rabbi Saperstein’s visit to NSCI will be available in early 2018.

# 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@nsci.org, 847-835-0724.



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