

Adult Learning
Spring 2016



KKBE

KAHAL KADOSH BETH ELOHIM

Learn With Us.



Adult Learning Spring 2016





Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi A. Lawrence Hoffman

When: March 18-20

Where: KKBE

Living Through Revolution: Ethnicity, Spirituality, and the Future of American Judaism

American religion is changing dramatically, and so too is Judaism. Jews look differently than we ever did, all because we are going through a revolution in religious consciousness -- just the third such upheaval in some two thousand years of history: the first gave us the Rabbis; the second produced Reform Judaism; and the third is under way right now, its end result a matter of what we choose to make it.



Shabbat Evening, Friday, March 18 at 8 pm

“Builders, Baby-Boomers and Beyond: Looking for American Jewish Identity”

Synagogues change and so do we. But before looking at where we go from here, we take a retrospective look at how we got here from there: a nostalgic revisiting of baby boomers growing up, suburbia and Dr. Spock, marching for Israel and Soviet Refuseniks – and what is left of all that now. This is your life, American Judaism.

Shabbat Lunch, Saturday, March 19 at 11:30 am

“Spirituality and the Anxious Search for Meaning”

An engaging consideration of modernity, meaning, and the human condition: the backdrop of modern art and science, and how we think anew in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Lawrence A. Hoffman was ordained as a rabbi in 1969, received his Ph.D. in 1973, and has since taught at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. For almost forty years, he has combined research, teaching, and a passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism. Rabbi Hoffman is a highly sought after Scholar-in-Residence. For more information visit www.lawrenceahoffman.com.

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Torah Study: The World's Oldest Book Club

Led by: KKBE Clergy

When: Sundays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

Check the KKBE calendar at kkbe.org for specific dates

Casual and conversational, join us for an ongoing discussion of the foundational text of Jewish thought and practice. Each session we pick up where we left off – reading and discussing the Torah, paragraph-by-paragraph, verse-by-verse. No Hebrew required; bring your own edition of the Torah or use ours. All are welcome, anytime!

Thursday Nights at KKBE 7 pm

Unpacking Israel

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander and Rev. Danny Massie

When: February 4

There is an interesting backstory to KKBE's most recent trip to Israel, a joint venture with First (Scots) Presbyterian Church in January of 2016. When the national body of the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), only narrowly voted not to divest from Israel – a vote that has unfortunately gone the other way in other liberal Protestant churches – Rev. Massie and Rabbi Alexander asked one another: What can we do to strengthen the ties of our communities (a) to Israel, and (b) to one another? The result was a trip that seeks to connect with both Jewish and Christian sites in Israel, as well as organizations in Israel that are doing the same kind of justice work in which our two congregations are engaged here in Charleston. Come hear about our experiences!

Jewish Masculinity 2.0: Manliness in Modernity

Rabbi Andrew Terkel

When: February 11

Last year's class on masculinity ended with the Labor Zionist movement, and Max Nordau's call for Jewish men to become "Muskeljuden." But today's men, Jewish and otherwise, face many different kinds of pressure. They're expected to be successful breadwinners and gentle family men. They must be problem solvers and good listeners. How is masculinity evolving in the 21st century? How have Jewish men and women contributed to the ongoing conversation about manliness and masculinity in our society? And what does the future hold for Jewish male identity? Come learn, discuss, and break apart the expectations surrounding Jewish masculinity. ALL GENDERS WELCOME!!!



Understanding the Ground-Breaking URJ Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People

Rabbi Alexander, Lee Ann Leland and Melissa Moore

When: February 18

Join Rabbi Alexander in welcoming Lee Anne Leland (Charleston Area Transgender Support) and Melissa Moore (We Are Family) to discuss the recent historic URJ resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People. What are the particular issues facing transgender and gender non-conforming people in Charleston? How are young people and their families confronting these identity questions? How can we, as individuals and a congregation, be allies to members of our community and to the Charleston community at large?

God Does Worry About What the Neighbors Think: The Reputation of a Repentant God in Biblical Tradition and Beyond

John Huddleston

When: February 25

Contrary to popular conceptions of the Judeo-Christian God, the God of the Hebrew scriptures is portrayed as one whose decisions can be altered by public opinion, Israelite or non-Israelite, and who repents concerning God's past actions. In other words, the God of the Hebrew Bible is very much concerned with God's reputation and acknowledges God's mistakes. This talk will consider some of the key biblical texts that speak to these issues of reputation and repentance and we will discuss their impact on Jewish tradition. John Huddleston is an Associate Professor in the Religious Studies Department at the College of Charleston.

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“I Don’t Roll on Shabbos”: Jewish Themes in the Films of the Coen Brothers

Elijah Siegler

When: March 3

Joel and Ethan Coen, two nice Jewish boys from Minnesota, have, over the course of their 30-year film career, invented some of the richest and most provocative Jewish characters ever seen on screen (Bernie Bernbaum from *Miller’s Crossing*, Walter Sobchak from *The Big Lebowski*, the title character in *Barton Fink*). And with their 2009 black comedy, *A Serious Man*, the Coens have made one of the profoundest explorations of Jewish themes ever put on film.

This lecture and discussion is led by Elijah Siegler, chair of the department of Religious Studies at College of Charleston, who has recently edited a book on religion in the films of the Coen Brothers.

(Attendees should watch any or all of the films mentioned above on their own. Be on the lookout for a separate screening of A Serious Man to be held at KKBE prior to this session.)

The Spiritual Child

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

When: March 10

All parents want our children to be healthy, successful, resilient and strong. How does spirituality fit into the mix? Recent research in clinical psychology shows that children who have “a positive, active relationship to spirituality” are significantly less likely to use and abuse alcohol and drugs, engage in dangerous or unprotected sex, be depressed as teenagers, or struggle in school. So come and discuss... What is spirituality? Are there ways we can help foster it in our children? How can we as adults become more comfortable with spirituality ourselves so that it’s easier and more natural for us to venture there with our children and grandchildren?

Co-sponsored by the Religious School Committee



Baking Hamantaschen

Helen Slucki

When: March 17

Join Helen Slucki and bake some hamantaschen for Purim – and bring a container to take some home! Bring your hamantaschen stories and Helen will share Australian cookie baking tales. The merits of poppy seed vs fig vs apricot fillings will be debated in the kitchen of KKBE.

Please register by March 14, \$10 fee for supplies.

Co-Sponsored by Sisterhood

Hadassah Medical Marvels: Repairing the World

Sharon Hox

When: March 24

Note: Brotherhood dinner at 6:30 pm

In Jerusalem, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) is a beacon of healing. Learn about HMO's advancements in ALS, cancer, trauma and emergency medicine, diabetes, macular degeneration, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, Parkinson's disease, melanoma, and cardiac care. We will focus on unravelling mysteries of the heart – work at Hadassah's Cardiovascular Research Center where they find solutions to problems arising from the patient's bedside.

Co-Sponsored by Brotherhood

8 pm Classes (8 week courses) February 4 - March 24

Meet the Prophets
Rabbi Andrew Terkel

Abraham Joshua Heschel asked, "What matter of man is the prophet?" Join us as we try and answer Heschel's question by getting to know their books, their stories, and their history. The prophets of ancient Israel defy a single definition. They are verbose and succinct, enthusiastic and reticent. Yet they all spoke truth to power when doing so went against the grain. Come meet these fascinating individuals whose words and deeds are recorded in the books of the Prophets. From Amos to Ezekiel, Jonah to Malachi; come study these prophets and discover why their texts continue to inspire so many of us today.



Introduction to Judaism

Rabbis Stephanie Alexander and Robert Seigel

An engaging overview of Jewish belief, tradition and practice for those interested in pursuing conversion to Judaism, interfaith couples, and anyone looking for a comprehensive survey of Jewish living.

(Note: This is a 16 week course; one may begin the course in either Fall or Spring. A second 8 week section will be offered in the Fall.)

Registration Required

Cost: \$50/person (doesn't include books)

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KKBE Reads!

Back by popular demand, KKBE Reads! continues with five new books for the Spring. We are changing our formula slightly. Please note that all groups will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, May 5. So mark your calendars and then: Choose one of the five books below, sign up through the office and then join a group of like-minded book lovers for a discussion led by a hand-picked facilitator for each selection. If you visit the KKBE adult education webpage and purchase the book through the Amazon link then KKBE will benefit!

Golem and the Jinni, Helene Wecker

Drawing on both Jewish and Arab folk mythology, this novel presents an immigrant tale turned on its head. Chava, the golem, is created to be a bride whose husband dies en route to America. The jinni, Ahmad, is released by a tinsmith. Each must learn to navigate New York City in 1899 and eventually they meet one another.

Fields of Exile, Nora Gold

Judith, a graduate student in Canada, who has recently moved after a ten year period of living in Israel, confronts the dissonance of being a peace activist in Israel with the anti-Israel sentiment common on many North American university campuses. Winner of the 2015 Canadian Jewish Literary Award for best novel.

Waveland, Simone Zelitch

A novel telling the story of Beth Fine - a white, Jewish woman who joins other Northern volunteers during Freedom Summer in 1964. Narrated by Beth, as told in her later years to her daughter, Tamar, this novel explores the complicated dynamics of a young woman wanting to challenge injustice.

The Hilltop, Assaf Gavron

Set in a West Bank settlement, two brothers - one religious and the other entrepreneurial - clash when Roni, the entrepreneurial brother, plans to market the olive oil made in the Palestinian village next door bringing this under-the-radar settlement community into the spotlight. Winner of the 2013 Bernstein Prize for Israeli fiction written by authors under 50.

Boys in the Boat, Daniel James Brown

A non-fiction account of the rowing team from the University of Washington who were the unlikely winners of the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics.



Coming this Summer...

The New Machzor

(High Holy Day Prayer Book): Up Close and Personal

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander, Rabbi Andrew Terkel, and Robin Shuler

When: Dates TBD (3 sessions – one/month in June, July and August)

KKBE is thrilled to introduce a new High Holy Day prayer book this fall: *Mishkan HaNefesh*, used by many Reform congregations this past fall to nearly resounding positive reviews. The new 2-volume set follows much of the same formatting of *Mishkan T'filah*, the prayer book we currently use for Shabbat services. There are multiple choices for English readings, representing a plurality of theologies; all Hebrew prayers and songs are transliterated into English characters for all to be able to follow along and participate; language is either gender-neutral or gender-inclusive; and there are notes and explanations that can provide a fuller understanding of the worship experience for those who are interested. It was the unanimous recommendation of the Ritual Committee, with the approval of the Board, that KKBE adopt this new prayer book with the continuing hope of making our High Holy Day services as meaningful and spiritual as possible for our entire community.

This three-part workshop is designed to help all who wish to gain a familiarity with some of the books' new features. The June session will look at Rosh Hashanah liturgy, the July session will look at Yom Kippur, and the August session will focus specifically on music.

A special thank you to the KKBE Sisterhood for contributing the funds to purchase the first 500 sets of *Mishkan HaNefesh* and for co-sponsoring this series.

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Ideas for future educational programming at KKBE?

Please contact a member of the Adult Education Team:

**Nadine Chavin, Claire Curtis, Denise Helton, Sharon Hox, Jim Klein,
Hillary Green Mahon, Ellis Regenbogen, Sally Regenbogen, Beth Sherr and Mark Swick**

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This is now our 4th full semester of Adult Learning at KKBE. We are blessed to have funds that help cover some of our costs. If you are inspired by our offerings, please consider a gift to Adult Education to help offset expenses of our innovative programs.