

**Congregation Netivot Shalom** is an egalitarian, participatory Sacred Community that encourages and engages in *Tefilah* (Prayer), *Torah* (Learning), *Tzedeka* (Social Justice), and *Kehillah* (Community) within our congregation and the broader community.

**Our mission** is to inspire Jewish practices among individuals and families who are considering Judaism, are intermarried, or Jewish. We share a commitment to Masorti/Conservative Judaism and furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs.



## **Adult Education at Congregation Netivot Shalom**

Netivot Shalom was founded with a strong emphasis on continuing adult Jewish learning. That has remained a dominant theme in all our activities as a Jewish community. The mission of the Adult Ed Committee is to enable every adult member of the congregation to make Jewish learning a continuing, ongoing part of her or his life, deepening our knowledge, our connection to and our appreciation of all that Judaism holds. Our adult learning encompasses a very wide range of topics and styles, including study of Jewish texts, ritual, art, Hebrew, Israel, liturgy, history, music, drama, workshops, talks by authors, dramatic presentations, and much more.

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**[netivotshalom.org](http://netivotshalom.org)**

# **CNS Adult Education “Green Pages”**

## **Opportunities for LifeLong Learning**

### **5771 (2010-2011)**

Welcome to another round of incredible adult learning opportunities sponsored by the Netivot Shalom Adult Education Committee. From introductory classes to more advanced studies, from weekly Shabbat morning and afternoon discussions and weekly Wednesday afternoon Tanach/Bible classes, from ongoing journeys to one-time events, we are committed to generating learning opportunities for our whole community. Please be in touch with Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of Life Long Learning at CNS, directly at [education@netivotshalom.org](mailto:education@netivotshalom.org) if you have an idea for a new program!

*- CNS Adult Education Committee, Marcia Brooks, chair*

## **Programs at a Glance:**

- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study, every week 9:00 - 10:30 am**
  - Join with wonderful scholars such as Nitzhia Shaked and Naomi Seidman to explore themes and content in the weekly Parashah
- **Shabbat Afternoon Discussions, every week after kiddush at 1:15 pm** (a variety of topics and teachers)
- **Sunday Morning Minyan, Speakers, and Breakfast twice a month**
  - 9:30AM Minyan, 10:30 AM speakers on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (see online calendar for updates)
- **Weekly Intermediate Talmud Class, Thursdays at 5:45 with Rabbi Bochner**
- **Discover Judaism: Ongoing Series with Rabbis Creditor and Bochner**
- **Taste of Judaism: for those exploring a Jewish identity**
- **Weekly Adult Tanach/Bible Study** (Wednesdays 1-2 pm in the Library)
- **Special Programs cosponsored with Lehrhaus Judaica and Building Jewish Bridges**
- **Visiting Scholars**

# Discover Judaism!

Join this series of classes, designed to help you access the deep meanings of Judaism through a friendly, beginner-level journey. Participants can join one series at a time, and are welcome to begin at any point. Jews and non-Jews are welcome!

## **Discover Judaism! Series 1: Jewish Theologies** with Rabbi Menachem Creditor

What does Judaism think about "God?" How do the visions of God in the Torah, Prophets, Writings, and Rabbinic periods compare? Is it the same God? How do modern Israeli poets and post-Holocaust theologians grapple with the eternal questions of meaning and purpose in the world? Text-study and discussion will be the basis for these conversations with no expectation of solutions in the end. No Hebrew is required for this class.

Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2

Time: 7:30 to 9pm

Place: Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley

Class fee: \$40-\$60 — (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds)

Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) to register.

## **Discover Judaism! Series 2: LifeCycles** with Rabbi Shalom Bochner

The rhythm of a Jewish life is based on recognizing the sacred in moments of transition from one phase to the next. This class will explore the prayers and rituals that have developed around birth, covenanting, coming of age, partnering, separation, and death. Text-study and discussion will be the basis for these conversations directed toward adding meaning to our understandings of the passage of time. No Hebrew is required for this class.

Dates: Tuesdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 7:30 to 9pm

Place: Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley

Class fee: \$40-\$60 — (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds)

Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) to register.

## **Discover Judaism! Series 3: Jewish Prayer** with Rabbi Menachem Creditor

Is prayer the act of speaking to the Divine? How does an Atheist pray? Does a person need to have a concept of God in order to be a "good prayer-er?" Does a person need to be Jewish to pray Jewishly? What do we pray for? What words "must" we use? Is public prayer "better" than private prayer? Join this conversation about traditional and contemporary languages that have informed the world of T'filah/Jewish Prayer. No Hebrew is required for this class.

Dates: Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 7:30 to 9pm

Place: Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley,

Class fee: \$40-\$60 — (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds)

Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) to register.

Please consult the Netivot Shalom online calendar for updated information: [www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org)!

# Jews and Food!



## 3 components of an edible journey!

With Rabbi Shalom Bochner and Rabbi Menachem Creditor

Jews without food is an impossibility. This class will explore topics about Jewish eating from Dietary Customs to Holiday Cuisine, from MJMFP (Modern Jewish Mindful Food Practice) to figuring out the right blessing for specific foods. What makes food Kosher? Does a rabbi need to “bless” it? Bring your appetite (for learning) and your questions to the table for an exploration of all Jewish things food! Following the core three-part series will be a practical conversation with Rabbi Creditor regarding the How-To’s of keeping Kosher for Passover. For dessert, join Rabbi Bochner for a movie viewing (the film is rated “R”) and discussion. Join us for the core classes or only the additional programs individually!

- **Classes:** Tuesdays, March 15, 22, 29, 7:30 to 9pm
- **Pesach Kashering Workshop** with Rabbi Creditor: April 5, 7:30-9pm
- **When Do We Eat? – A Pre-Passover Movie & Discussion Night** with Rabbi Bochner: April 12, 7-9:30pm

Place: Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley

Class fee: \$50-\$75 — (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds)

Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) to register.

## Spirit of the Vine: Ancient, Modern and Spiritual Perspectives on Jewish Winemaking\*

Instructors: Jehon Grist, Susanne Strimling, Rabbi David White and Binyamin Cantz

Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth El and Congregation Netivot Shalom and Lehrhaus Judaica

This series offers a Jewish perspective on winemaking and wine culture, as well as the uniquely Jewish spiritual and ritual values associated with wine. In our first session, we'll explore the origins of wine culture in the ancient Near East with vivid images of winemaking and appreciation, both in words and pictures, from ancient Israel and Egypt. From there, we'll fast forward to Jews in the burgeoning wine industry today, including high-end Kosher vintages, definitely not your mom's Manishevitz! David White, author of the newly published *Sippin' on Top of the World*, will introduce the social and spiritual meaning of wine within Jewish tradition in the third session. We'll conclude with a winetasting provided by Binyamin Cantz, of Four Gates Winery, in Santa Cruz, a kosher organic vineyard.

**4 Sessions:** Thursdays, October 21 – November 11, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Tuition:** \$50 / \$40 for CNS members

**Please note the two locations:** Oct. 21 & 28 - Congregation Beth El (1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, 510-848-3988) Nov. 4 & 11 - Congregation Netivot Shalom (1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, 510-549-9447)



**\*Register for this class online at [www.lehrhaus.org](http://www.lehrhaus.org)**

Please consult the Netivot Shalom online calendar for updated information: [www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org)!

## Rambam's "Mishneh Torah"

with Nitzhia Shaked

Co-sponsored by Congregation Netivot Shalom and Lehrhaus Judaica

"MiMoshe leMoshe, lo kam k'Moshe / From Moses to Moses, no one has arisen like Moses," says the famous quote about Maimonides. In this course we will start with a short introduction to Rambam's life and philosophy followed by a study of selections of halakhot/laws from "Mishneh Torah." We will discuss Rambam's ideas about interesting topics such as worshiping God, improving human behavior, gossip, tzedaka, superstitions, and more. A reader will be provided.



**6 Sessions:** Mondays, October 18 – November 22, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**Tuition:** \$70 / \$60 for CNS members

**Location:** Congregation Netivot Shalom (1316 University Avenue, Berkeley 510-549-9447)

**\*Register for this class online at [www.lehrhaus.org](http://www.lehrhaus.org)**

## Exploring the Path of the Just

with Gregory Newmark

Co-sponsored by Congregation Netivot Shalom and Lehrhaus Judaica

This class is designed to introduce students to the mussar (ethics) classic, *The Path of the Just*. Written by the renegade Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzatto ('The Ramchal') and first published in the Netherlands in 1740, this brilliant text bristles with insight into human behavior. Not content merely to describe, however, the Ramchal prescribes activities to help his readers refine their habits to be better people. This class will follow the path laid out by the Ramchal. Our first session will focus on the author's introduction and his conception of man's duty in the world. The following two sessions will each focus on a trait worth cultivating, first vigilance and then alacrity. Join us and challenge yourself to explore The Path of the Just.

**3 Sessions:** Thursdays, October 7 – October 21, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**Tuition:** \$35 / \$25 for members

**Location:** Congregation Netivot Shalom (1316 University Avenue, Berkeley 510-549-9447)

**\*Register for this class online at [www.lehrhaus.org](http://www.lehrhaus.org)**



## CNS's Weekly Intermediate Talmud Class

with Rabbi Shalom Bochner - Thursdays at 5:45

Come and learn the origins of the Prayerbook through our weekly journey through "Masechet Berachot/Tractate Blessings." Comfort with reading Hebrew is preferred. Learn the teachings and humor of our sages. It's got everything – including the kitchen sink! The class is free, but a 5\$ donation/class is appreciated.

Please consult the Netivot Shalom online calendar for updated information: [www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org)!

# Equal and Pluralistic – challenges and difficulties in Israel society

with Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, Bay Area Masorti Visiting Scholar

Co-sponsored by Bay Area Masorti and Congregation Netivot Shalom

This is a sensitive topic, one we are committed to discussing in our passion for the Israel we dream of. The course will touch on the status and difficulty in Israel of:

- 1) Charedim (“ultra-Orthodox”)
- 2) Arab-Israelis
- 3) Mizrachi/Sephardi Jews
- 4) Russian and Ethiopian Olim
- 5) The GLBTQ community



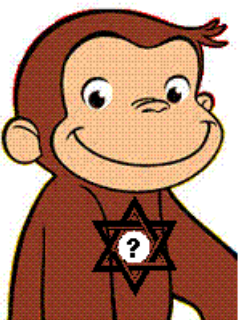
We will study texts, share conversations, and explore the realities confronting Israeli society in its struggle to be both Equal and Pluralistic to all its inhabitants.

**3 Sessions:** Wed. nights: Oct. 6, 20, 27 at 7:30pm-9pm

**Class fee:** \$36-\$50 sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds.

**Location:** Congregation Netivot Shalom

Please email Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org) to register.



## A Taste of Judaism: Are you Curious?

with Rabbi Menachem Creditor

*Co-sponsored by Congregation Netivot Shalom and Building Jewish Bridges*

Enjoy a free, three-session class on the modern Jewish perspective on spirituality, ethics and community. This class is designed to give you a foundational understanding of Judaism in a fun, friendly environment. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be Jewish to be curious. But, you do have to register so we can save you a seat!

**3 Sessions:** Thursdays, October 7 – October 21, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

**Tuition:** Free

**Location:** Congregation Netivot Shalom (1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, 510-549-9447)

Please register with Dawn Kepler at [dawn@buildingjewishbridges.org](mailto:dawn@buildingjewishbridges.org) or 510-845-6420 x11.

## La'asok: Wednesday Adult Tanach/Bible Study, 1-2pm

With Rabbi Menachem Creditor and Rabbi Shalom Bochner

In our third year of the learning cycle, we will explore sections of from Ketuvim/Writings, including selected Psalms and the books read on certain holidays. Come learn with a small group!



Please consult the Netivot Shalom online calendar for updated information: [www.netivotshalom.org](http://www.netivotshalom.org)!

# Everyday Holiness: A Traditional Jewish Approach to Character Refinement

with Laura Goldman and Jeffrey Kessler

## A 6-Week Class offered at CNS

Are you looking for a way to bring the spiritual depth of the High Holidays into your life beyond Sukkot? Have you observed that a daily spiritual practice can anchor and grow your sense of connection to Self, Others, and God? The centuries-old Jewish spiritual tradition of *Mussar*, previously known almost exclusively within the Orthodox world, offers us a body of thought and text, as well as practical techniques for bringing Holiness into our everyday lives.



Join us for a 6-week immersion in the wisdom and transformative power of *Mussar*. Using Everyday Holiness, by Alan Morinis, as our text, and employing chant, chevrotah study, journaling, and experiential exercises, we will cultivate and refine character traits such as Humility, Gratitude, Equanimity, and Trust.

**-Jeffrey Kessler** is a long-time practitioner and teacher of Meditation and Tai-Chi Chuan. He has delved into a wide array of spiritual traditions and healing systems, and maintains a private practice in Somatic Therapy.

**-Laura Goldman, L.C.S.W.** has a private practice in Psychotherapy and Spiritual Direction in Berkeley. She leads Contemplative Worship, and teaches Meditation and Mussar throughout the Bay Area.

**Wednesdays**, 7 to 9 p.m.

**Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 17**

**COST:** \$180 (limited scholarships available)

**To register** and for information, please call (510)339-1701.

## Living a Mythic Life: An Interactive Creative Experience with Rabbi Menachem Creditor

**Sundays Oct. 17 & 31, 7:30pm-9:30pm @ CNS**



As part of the CNS Sunday morning minyan & speakers program from February through July 2008, Rabbi Creditor taught a series entitled "*Living a Mythic Life*." The original series sparked a number of projects in Rabbi Creditor's work. He invites the CNS community to be a part of the next aspect of this journey: a proposed book, to be entitled "*Living a Mythic Life*." The structure of this project is fluid, and conversation-based. Each session will be comprised of a one hour teaching by Rabbi Creditor, followed by one hour of dialogue with participants. The entire program will be recorded, transcribed, and edited into the core of the proposed book. Topics will include notions of "Mythic Time," "Mythic Space," "Mythic Narrative," and "Mythic Conduct." The product is unpredictable, but the conversations are sure to be engaging. This series is free. No registration is necessary. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver so that the conversations can be included in the eventual book.

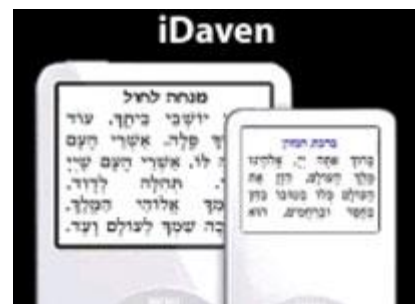
# Davening Lab

## Class led by Hannah Dressner

Four 90 minute sessions, every other Shabbat

Oct. 2, 16, & 30, Nov. 13, 10:30 - 12:00

This four session "davening lab" is meant to hold a container for experimentation with the Shabbat morning davening, for the purpose of further vitalizing our personal experiences of prayer. We hope that skills and insights gained in this smaller context will, ultimately, enhance the larger Netivot Shabbat morning service. To keep us in sync with the main service, the Slim Shalom siddur (and a transliterated siddur) will be used as a basis for this investigation, augmented by other sources.



Modes and enhancements of prayer to be explored will include: becoming comfortable with traditional nusach and its riffs, the usefulness of chant, the place for silence, davening in translation, and creation of privacy within one's tallit, and, of course, some new melodies.

Each session will take the form of an abbreviated service, with study of at least one prayer or psalm within that context.

Please come with a tallit (your own or borrowed from the Netivot supply) and an open heart. Please leave all writing and recording instruments behind, as we are learning while doing, and Shabbat does not traditionally include these activities.

And be prepared to re-integrate with the full community by staying for kiddush!

So as to create a cohesive group and a safe environment for improvisation, it will be best to pre-register for this course and be committed to attend the four session if at all possible.

**Please register for this class through Rachel at [office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:office@netivotshalom.org).**



**Dr. Richard Freund, Biblical scholar and archeologist, will be the After-Kiddush presenter on November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Dr. Richard A. Freund is Director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and Greenberg Professor of Jewish History at the University of Hartford. He has directed six archaeological projects in Israel and three projects in Europe on behalf of the University including: Bethsaida, Qumran, the Cave of Letters, Nazareth, Yavne, Har Karkom (Mount Sinai) as well as archaeological projects in Burgos and Cadiz, Spain and at the extermination camp at Sobibor, Poland. Dr. Freund is the author of six books on archaeology and two books on Jewish ethics and over one hundred scholarly articles.