



Congregation Kol Shofar Fall Program Guide

Marin County's Conservative Synagogue
Fall 2009/5770

www.kolshofar.org
415.388.1818

Shana Tova!



Fall is such a wonderful time for renewal and new beginnings, and what better way to start your new year off than to take some unique and inspiring classes? Whether your interests are in Torah study, freshening up your Hebrew skills, or learning more about Jewish authors and books this fall, we are offering it all. Interested in a class not presently being offered? Please call so I may learn about your interests. Many of our classes are created from the ideas and desires of our community so it is important to become involved and share your ideas. I wish you a sweet new year filled with learning and discovery!

B'Shalom, Hagar Ben-Eliezer

Director of Programming & Community Outreach • hben-eliezer@kolshofar.org • 415.388.1818, ext 111

Parenting Series

HOW TO RAISE AN ETHICAL, COMPASSIONATE JEWISH CHILD & still get out the door on time

A series of conversations with fellow Kol Shofar parents about the challenges of raising a child Jewishly in the Bay Area. *Sundays, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM • Free • Kent Middle School*



October 25: *Julie King*

Work, school, laundry, homework, picking up the toys, answering emails, carpool, sports, music lessons, getting the groceries, putting out the garbage, making dinner, preparing lunches, washing the dishes, brushing teeth... Who has time to be Jewish?

November 1: *Beverly Pinto*

How to live Jewishly in the face of a culture that promotes rampant materialism... and still (in good conscience) own an iPhone!

November 8: *Rabbi Lavey Derby*

Gossip, tattletales, and political correctness: Can we talk (Jewishly)?

Jewish Study – Hebrew *with Tikva Farber*

Please pre-register through Lehrhaus Judaica • 510.845.6420 • www.lehrhaus.org

BEGINNING MODERN HEBREW • A2

A continuation of Modern Hebrew Level A1. Build on vocabulary, grammar, and basic conversational skills. The instructor will show both patience and sensitivity to the needs of adult learners who have limited time for study. Adults 14 and up.

Tuesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM
Sept. 1 – Oct. 29 (8 sessions)
Fee: \$105 member / \$125 public
Davidson Middle School Annex

MODERN HEBREW • BA

This course develops conversational and comprehension skills for students with a basic knowledge of modern Hebrew. It also expands vocabulary and grammar knowledge while broadening language fluency. Adults 14 & up.

Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Modern Hebrew, the Modern Hebrew Ulpan (Level Alef), or equivalent.

Tuesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM
Nov. 3 – Dec. 22 (8 sessions)
Fee: \$105 member / \$125 public
Davidson Middle School Annex



TELLING OUR STORIES: GATHERING FOR SENIORS

with Gail Cohon Stein

Do you want to meet other seniors, build friendships and share your life's wisdom and stories? Then this is the place for you! Join Gail Cohon Stein and seniors from around Marin as we share our own personal stories and listen to others with unique life stories to share.

Third Tuesday of the month • 1:30–2:30 PM
Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15 • Free • Davidson Middle School Annex



Jewish Study

IS CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM HALACHIC, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

with Rabbi Chai Levy

Conservative Judaism has always claimed to be a halachic movement (following Jewish law), but in recent years, Rabbi Neil Gillman has famously challenged this notion. Through readings, text study, and discussion, we'll explore these questions: What does Conservative Judaism stand for? How does halakha function in theory and in practice in Conservative communities like Kol Shofar? What's the spiritual and theological significance of questions of halachic obligation for a Conservative Jew today?

Wednesdays • 6:00–7:30 PM

Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11 & 18, Dec. 2 & 9 (6 sessions)

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

TALMUD STUDY CIRCLE

with Rabbi Lavey Derby

Delve deeply into the traditional study of Talmud and its commentaries. This ongoing study group is designed both for those new to Talmud study and for those with some experience. Newcomers are always welcome.

Tuesdays • 8:00–9:00 AM

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

PHILOSOPHIES OF JUDAISM

with David Fankushen

Read and discuss Jewish philosophy and thought in this friendly group. David has taught the history of Kabbalah at the California Institute of Integral Studies, Chochmat HaLev, and Dominican University. Sept. – Dec.

First and Third Thursdays • 1:15–2:15 PM

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

TORAH LUNCH & LEARN

with Rabbi Lavey Derby

Join our journey through Biblical literature as we continue to study books of the Prophets and Writings. The text is read in English, and the discussion is always stimulating and thoughtful. Whether you are new to Torah study or have been studying for years, this weekly study session will become the highlight of your week. Bring a kosher dairy or vegetarian lunch.

Thursdays • 12:00–1:00 PM

(no class Nov. 26, Dec. 31)

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

Fall 2009/5770

Coming to the Idra...

MOVING WITH KEDUSHA/HOLINESS

with Dr. Ilene Serlin

Take time to be quiet within yourself and calm your soul. Through stretching, meditation, and prayer we will awaken our senses and begin to hear our inner holy voice. This is a great warm up for the Chavurah for Jewish Spiritual Practice class that follows. No experience necessary; all welcome. Wear comfortable clothes.

Tuesdays • 7:00–7:45 PM • Sept. 8 – Dec. 15

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

CHAVURAH FOR JEWISH SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

with Rabbi Lavey Derby

This is an in-depth experience of chanting, meditation, and learning for those who wish to deepen their spiritual lives by gathering together once a week for practice with a community of like-minded people. Each week we will begin with chanting and a period of meditation, followed by contemplative study of spiritual texts from the Hasidic tradition that offer insights for spiritual growth. This program is appropriate for serious beginning and experienced meditators, and all the texts will be provided in English translation.

Tuesdays • 7:50–9:00 PM

Sept. 8 – Dec. 15 (no class Sept. 29)

Free • Davidson Middle School Annex

COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP AND CRISIS

facilitated by Rabbi Lavey Derby

Join us for this unique class, partnering with the Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel: an 8-month study program, comprised of lectures, study materials, and interactive resources. Expand your ability to respond to key questions facing the Jewish people and contemporary society. Taught in lecture style, with Rabbi Lavey Derby teaching from the Hartman Institute text, as well as DVDs of lecturers with facilitated conversations. Lecture topics:

1. **Donniel Hartman** Intro to the Series: Jewish Responses to Crisis
2. **Micah Goodman** The Crisis of Destruction: The Prophet Jeremiah
3. **Micah Goodman** Personal Crisis & Theological Audacity: The Book of Job
4. **Micah Goodman** The Sages of the Talmud & the Crisis of Authority
5. **Melila Hellner-Eshed** Individual and Collective Responses to Crisis: Zohar & Hasidut
6. **Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi** God After Auschwitz: Jewish Theological Responses
7. **Donniel Hartman** Response to Crisis: Reestablishing Moral Awareness
8. **Donniel Hartman** Moving Beyond Crisis: Reclaiming the Primacy of Ethics

6:00–7:30 PM • Free

Fall 2009: Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 21; Dec. 2, 16; Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12

Winter/Spring 2010: Jan. 6, 20; Feb. 3, 17; Mar. 3, 17; Apr. 7, 21; May 5, 26

Davidson Middle School Annex • RSVP: Hagar Ben-Eliezer at

415.388.1818, ext. 111, or hben-eliezer@kolshofar.org



People of the Book - Authors Series

Join us for Bagels & Books as we meet some of the most exciting authors in the Jewish literary world today. Each session will include an author talk, questions and answers and an opportunity for book signing.



Author Series books will be on sale each Sunday at Kent Middle School.

Bagels & coffee provided • Free

Sundays • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM • Kent Middle School



Sunday, November 15

**STATION IDENTIFICATION:
A Cultural History of Yiddish
Radio in the United States**
Ari Y. Kelman,
Professor UC Davis

From 1923 until the 1980s, Yiddish radio provided the soundtrack to Americanization. Jewish immigrants tuned into stations to hear rabbis sermonize, lady

cantors sing, and serial dramas about the immigrant life.

Ari Y. Kelman will demonstrate how he has excavated the archives through sound clips, video, and script.



Sunday, December 6

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR:
Writers Reflect on Their
Dreams of Youth and the
Reality of Age**
Victoria Zackheim,
author of *The Bone Weaver*

These questions were posed to authors: When you were young and idealistic, who did you see in the mirror? Who do you

see now? From

Alan Dershowitz, to Dr. Michael Bader, Margot Duxler, to Aviva Layton to Nancy Weber, Zackheim explores the person they expected to become and how their Jewish identity played a part in how they perceived themselves.



Sunday, November 22

**HOVERING AT LOW ALTITUDE:
The Collected Poetry
of Dalia Ravikovitch**
Chana Bloch,
Professor UC Berkeley

Dalia Ravikovich, who died in 2005, was one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary Hebrew literature and the Israeli peace movement.

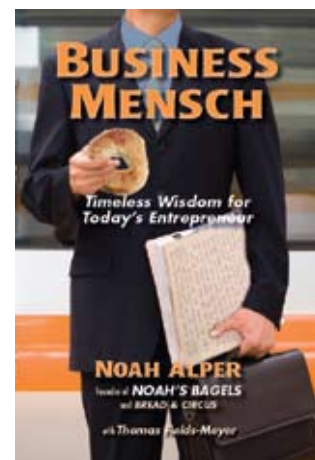
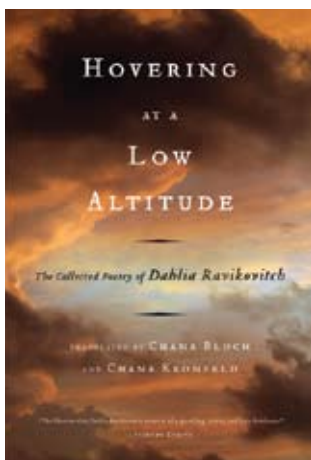
In her poems about everyday Israeli life Ravikovich articulates the painful asymmetries of power. Her poetry reveals her mastery of the verbal art.



Sunday, December 13

**BUSINESS MENSCH:
Timeless Wisdom for Today's
Entrepreneur**
Noah Alper,
Creator of *Noah's Bagels*

Blending memoir, Jewish knowledge and professional insight, Noah Alper describes what led to his success and how any entrepreneur can thrive using ancient Jewish wisdom as a guide. He offers 7 accessible strategies to incorporate Judaism's rich values into one's life and career.

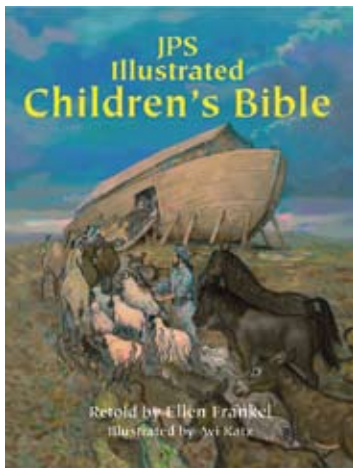


Little People of the Book - Authors Series

Beit Binah will be celebrating Jewish Book month by hosting exciting authors right in their classroom! During each session, the author will read their book in person, discuss the reason why they became an author, answer questions, and sign books.

Author Series books will be on sale each Sunday at Kent Middle School in November and December. Parents are welcome to come.

Sundays • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Kent Middle School



Sunday, November 15

THE JPS ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BIBLE
Dr. Ellen Frankel

Noted author and storyteller Ellen Frankel retells 53 stories from this classic work, including Noah's Ark, Exodus from Egypt and Queen Esther.

Bible stories kindle the imagination of

children while at the same time transmit Jewish core values such as hospitality, generosity, honesty, compassion, and faith in God.

Grades 4-7.



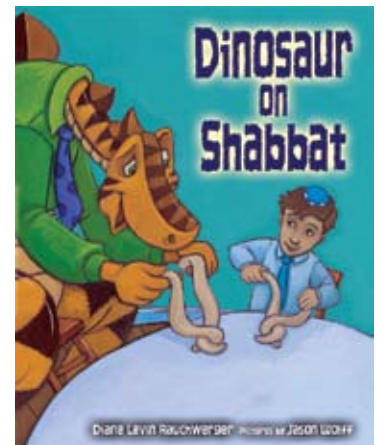
Sunday, December 13

DINOSAUR ON SHABBAT
Diane Levin-Rauchwerger

The friendly, oversized dinosaur comes knocking to celebrate Shabbat with a young boy and his contemporary family. In silly, rhyming text, Dino tries to help with Shabbat preparations: setting the table, lighting the candles, pouring the wine, and blessing the

challah. He also joins the family in the synagogue on Shabbat morning, and participates in Havdalah. His size, enthusiasm, and clumsiness create havoc, but add to the excitement of preparing for Shabbas.

Grades Pre-K – 1.



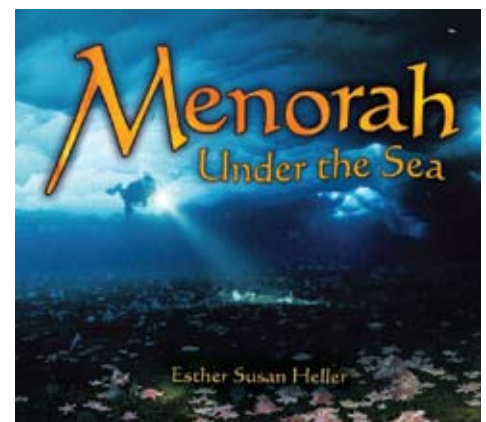
Sunday, December 6

MENORAH UNDER THE SEA
David W. Ginsburg

Menorah Under the Sea is a true-life story of a Jewish marine biologist who brings Hanukkah to Antarctica, where during much of the year

there is no night. This story is a reminder of the tenacity and survival of all Jewish people, and helps us remember that all holidays can be celebrated anywhere, even in the Antarctica! Enjoy a slide show presentation and see real diving equipment up close.

Grades 1-5.



Bible by the Bay



Sunday, November 8, 12:00–5:00 PM

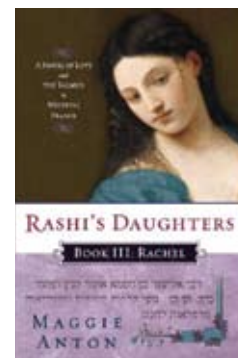
Bible by the Bay returns to Marin. Working to contextualize the Torah in useful and contemporary ways, Bible by the Bay is more than just a day of biblical learning; it's a time and space for the community to come together and have a discussion about the relevance of the Torah in our daily lives, locally, nationally and internationally.

This year's format for Bible by the Bay begins with an opening keynote address by **Maggie Anton**, whose topic will be the book *Rashi's Daughters: Imaginary Biblical Commentators*. Following the keynote address will be two sessions of workshops. The second session of workshops will include a special panel, entitled *From the Bible to Buddha: How Jews have fused the Teachings of the Bible with the Practices of Meditation*, in memory of Allen Lew, z"l.

\$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. At the Osher Marin JCC.

More details online at www.biblebythebay.org.

Free Children's program with Bible-themed activities are available: you may drop you kids off for the full duration of the event or join them for some parent-child activities part of the time. You must pre-register by October 20.



Bible by the Bay Schedule:

Keynote Speaker

Maggie Anton

Rashi's Daughters: Imaginary Biblical Commentators?

Workshops, SESSION 1

Maggie Anton

Rabbi Michael Barenbaum

Rachel Brodie

Rabbi George Gittleman

Rabbi Sydney Mintz

Deborah Newbrun

Irene Resnikoff

Prof Moulie Vidas

How to write a Modern Midrash: Tips from writing *Rashi's Daughters*

Sarah & Hagar; Isaac & Ishmael: Biblical Roots of Conflict and Reconciliation
Just Food? The Route from Eden to Postville.

Living Torah - 5 Texts to Live By

From the Bible to the Bay: Jewish Identity from Sinai to Today
A Bible-Walk

Bible Stories and Children:

How do you deal with "the good, the bad and the ugly"

Regular Rashi: Understanding the canonical Bilabial Commentary

Workshops, SESSION 2

Vicky Kelman

Doron Neshet

Parenting in the Bible

Biblical Prophets on Israel's Hit Parade: Nevi'im VePizmonim (in Hebrew)

Panel

From the Bible to Buddha:

How Jews have fused the teachings of the Bible with practices of meditation

Zoketsu Norman Fischer, Rabbi Lavey Derby, Yocheved Sheila Katz; Moderator: Rabbi Dorothy Richman

Music and Conversation

Congregation Kol Shofar & Osher Marin JCC co-sponsored events

RABBI DAVID WOLPE,
WHY FAITH MATTERS

Wednesday November 18 • 7:00 PM



Does religion have value in the modern world or is it the cause of our greatest problems? In his most recent book, *Why Faith Matters*, David J. Wolpe makes the case for faith and shares his vision of religion informed by love and understanding. He speaks of the origin and nature of faith, the role of the

Bible in our lives today, and how God and science are wholly compatible.

This presentation will be followed by a panel representing Marin's religious diversity, including Pastor Doug Huneke of Westminster Church, Buddhist Priest Fu Shroeder of Zen Center Green Gulch Farm, and moderated by Reverend Carol Hovis, Director of the Marin Interfaith Council. \$12 members; \$15 public

JOSHUA NELSON
& THE KOSHER GOSPEL SINGERS

Saturday, November 21 • 8:00 PM

Inspired by his faith, & love of gospel music, Joshua blends Jewish religious lyrics and meanings with the soulful sounds of American gospel music to create his own Kosher Gospel. Don't miss this inspirational performer with a fire-and-brimstone voice, "discovered" by Oprah Winfrey and compared to the late Mahalia Jackson.



These two events take place at the Osher Marin JCC. For tickets, please go to www.marinjcc.org or call 415.444.8000. Congregation Kol Shofar Members receive JCC member prices. The Osher Marin JCC 200 N San Pedro Rd. San Rafael

Reserved Table Seating: \$28 members; \$30 public
General Admission: \$23 members; \$25 public

Bridges to Israel



TAGLIT • תגלית
birthright israel
www.birthrightisrael.com

DON'T MISS OUT ON A FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-26!

Join Congregation Kol Shofar for this once-in-a-lifetime free trip to Israel

Climb aboard our Marin bus this winter as we head to Israel! We are currently recruiting 40 young adults to attend our Birthright trip January 4-15, 2010. Contact Hagar ASAP to guarantee your spot. Taglit-Birthright Israel provides a gift of first-time, peer-group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults from around the world, and is a unique partnership between the people of Israel through their government, leading Jewish philanthropists, and local Jewish communities to help young Jewish adults build a stronger connection to Israel.

California participants must get themselves to New York, but the flight to Israel, accommodations, meals and tours are all FREE. If you have ever thought of going, now is the time to do it!

To sign up, contact Hagar Ben-Eliezer at hben-eliezer@kolshofar.org or 415.388.1818, ext. 111.

ISRAEL AND TRAUMA: UPDATE with Ilene Serlin

Ilene Serlin will talk about her July trip to Israel as an update to her April trip, where she worked with the Casualty Division of the IDF, visited trauma centers, and worked with graduate students on resiliency and stress reduction.

Monday, Oct. 19 • 7:00-8:30 PM • Davidson Middle School Annex
RSVP: Hagar Ben-Eliezer at 415.388.1818, ext. 111, or hben-eliezer@kolshofar.org



"Calm on the outside;
balagan on the inside"

Days of Prayer and Celebration

NESHAMA MINYAN

with Rabbi Lavey Derby and guests

Nurture and enrich your soul with an introspective Shabbat morning prayer experience. The Neshama Minyan includes the Shabbat morning service, Torah reading with group aliyot, teaching, chanting, meditation, and discussion. Neshama means soul, spirit, and breath. All are welcome.

Sept. 12, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, Jun. 12.
9:30 AM • *Beit Knesset Katan, Davidson Middle School Annex*

Saturday, September 12:

SONGS OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL — A PRE-SLICHOT KUMZITS

with Ami Goodman & Abby Caplin

Join us for an evening of thoughtful reflection and personal re-examination through song and meditation as we prepare for the High Holy Days and the new year. We hope to begin the process of opening our hearts to ourselves and all others as we enter the season of return and renewal.

9:00 PM *Slichot Kumzits* • 10:45 PM *Service* • *Davidson Middle School Annex*

Wednesday, October 7:

SUKKOT LUNCH FOR SENIORS

Visit with Rabbi Lavey Derby as he talks about the meaning and rituals surrounding Sukkot. A catered vegetarian lunch will be served in the Sukka.

Please RSVP to Hagar Ben-Eliezer, by emailing hben-eliezer@kolshofar.org or calling 415.388.1818, ext 111 by October 2.

12:00 PM—1:00 PM • *Free* • *Davidson Middle School Annex*

Saturday, October 10 & Sunday, October 11:

SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATIONS

Simchat Torah — rejoicing in the Law — celebrates the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. We affirm our view of the Torah and a desire for lifelong study. Enjoy a celebratory service of dancing with the Torah, then stay as we sing, nosh and dance to Joel Siegel's rockin' band.

Saturday Oct. 10, 7:30 PM • Sunday Oct. 11, 9:30 AM

Congregation Kol Shofar service will be held at:

Congregation Rodef Sholom, 170 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael

EAT, PRAY, SCHMOOZE — New Kabbalat Shabbat Program

What better way to spend a Friday night than with your own Kol Shofar community!

Join us the FIRST Friday of every month for a community dinner, children's program, service, and Oneg Shabbat! Following dinner, adults can pray and "schmooze" while children are busy learning and having fun.

6:15 PM *Dinner*

6:45 PM *Children's Program*

7:30 PM *Service*

8:15 PM *Oneg Shabbat*

Oct. 2, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4 • Free • *Davidson Middle School Annex*

Please RSVP by Wednesday morning prior to event to Sharon Brusman at sbrusman@kolshofar.org or 415.388.1818 ext. 106.

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