

## The Adult Ed Newsletter Congregation Netivot Shalom

### Ha-Machberet

Winter 2013

Shalom!

Welcome to another edition of *Ha-Machberet\* - The Notebook* - the newsletter of Congregation Netivot Shalom's Adult Education Committee. *Ha-Machberet* will keep you posted about the many adult educational programs at Netivot Shalom. We are sending our quarterly newsletter to people who have expressed an interest in adult directed educational and enrichment programs at our synagogue. **NOTE: THE NETIVOT SHALOM CONGREGATION IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY ON THIS LIST. IF YOU WISH TO BE PLACED ON THE ADULT EDUCATION MAILING LIST PLEASE E-MAIL [CNSADULTPROGRAMS@NETIVOTSHALOM.ORG](mailto:CNSADULTPROGRAMS@NETIVOTSHALOM.ORG) WITH YOUR NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

Please forward these newsletters on to your friends and ask them to send an email to [cnsadultprograms@netivotshalom.org](mailto:cnsadultprograms@netivotshalom.org) to have their names added to our mailing list.

We hope to see you at shul - and especially at one of our events.

Sincerely

The Adult Education Committee,

Judy Radousky,  
Edna Stewart,  
Stephen Tobias,  
Bill Stewart,  
Doug Lubes,  
Josh Diamont,  
David Gill,  
David Stein,  
Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Director of LifeLong Learning

\*A note on our name: *Machberet* is a noun derived from the root [chet - bet- reish] the same root that *chaver* "friend" or "cohort" comes from, and the same root that "connect" comes from. So our "notebook" acts as a friendly connection for you about our programs.

## On-Going Weekly Classes for Adults at CNS

### La'asok - with Rabbis Bochner and Creditor

#### Wednesday's at 1 pm in the Library

Study the weekly Torah portion with insights from ancient midrashim and contemporary thinkers. The discussion will be facilitated by either Rabbi Bochner or Rabbi Creditor .

There is no charge for this on-going class, but a donation to the Adult Ed Fund would be appreciated.

### Intermediate Talmud Class with Rabbi Shalom Bochner

#### Thursdays at 5:45 in the Library

Come and learn the origins of the Sidur through our weekly journey through **Masechet Berachot- Tractate Blessings**. Comfort with reading Hebrew and some familiarity with the context of Talmud is preferred. Learn the teachings and humor of our sages. It's got everything - including the kitchen sink! And we generally debate with each other in the spirit of the sages!

There is no charge for this on-going class, but a donation to the Adult Ed Fund would be appreciated.

### Shabbat Torah Study

#### 9:00 am, Shabbat Mornings in the Library

Read, discuss, and debate the week's Parasha. We use *Etz Chayim* as our text. We often have professional teachers lead the discussion, but just as often skilled volunteers from our congregation are our leaders.

There is no charge for this on-going year-long class, but a donation to the Adult Ed Fund can help continue this and other free classes. See you next Shabbat at Torah Study!

### After Kiddush Classes and Discussions

#### In the Library. . ."after Kiddush" each Shabbat

Each Shabbat, after Kiddush (at approximately 1:15 pm) a speaker presents a topic for discussion. Often this venue is the place to hear visiting scholars, book reviews, developments in a field of inquiry like Biblical Archeology, or listen to poetry.

## Upcoming Classes - February

### FEBRUARY 9: SHABBAT DAY

#### Netivot Shalom's Masorti Scholar-in-Residence: Rabbi Andy Sacks!

Rabbi Sacks will deliver the Drasha during Shabbat morning services and will also present the after-kiddush learning.

Rabbi Andrew Sacks is the Director of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel and the Religious Affairs Bureau. Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the only Masorti Mohel practicing in Israel, Rabbi Sacks is the author of Masorti Matters, a provocative online column for the Jerusalem Post.

**RELIGIOUS VERSE OF MANY NATIONS with RABBI JONATHAN OMER-MAN**

**Four Tuesdays: 7:30 PM-9:00 PM: February 5, 12, 19 and 26.**

**This class is limited to 16 students; pre-registration is required. There will be no drop-ins. Students must commit to all four sessions.**

To register e-mail [Office@netivotshalom.org](mailto:Office@netivotshalom.org)

\$10 per session donation to Adult Ed requested (no one turned away for lack of funds.)

I have always felt that a good poem is unsurpassed in its ability to explore the yearnings of the human heart, and this is especially the case when it comes to the life of the spirit. In this series we will look at some fine religious verse written in a variety of languages, and from disparate, mostly mystical traditions.

**HOW TO SAY BIRKAT HA'MAZON with RABBI MENACHEM CREDITOR**

**Wednesday: February 6 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

What is the real meaning of our "Grace After Meals?" How and where did it begin? Are you comfortable saying it? Leading it? Perhaps you never learned how. Here is your chance. Join Rabbi Creditor as he gives a workshop on saying Birkat ha'Mazon.

**THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: MONTHLY CLASSES RELATING TO JEWISH PRACTICES AROUND DEATH, BURIAL AND MOURNING**

**Varying Evenings, once monthly**

Presentations and discussion on aspects of Jewish Practice in Dying, Death, Burial and the Chevra Kadisha. Presenters will be from all areas concerned with practice. Sponsored by the CNS Chevra Kadisha

**JEWS AND CREMATION: A CONTINUING DISCUSSION**

**With**

**RABBI MENACHEM CREDITOR**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: 7:30-9:00 PM**

Join the ongoing discussion about cremation, including some background on the history of this "taboo" and why we practice as we do. You do not have had to attend the first session to benefit from this one.

**Upcoming Classes - March**

*Sunday morning Minyan and learning!*

**ONE BAY – ONE BOOK**

***What We Talk About When We  
Talk About Anne Frank***

**By Nathan Englander**

**Sunday, March 17: 9:30 Minyan: Program at 10:30**

Join us for a discussion with Rabbi Menachem Creditor as we focus on Nathan Englander's tale "Sister Hills," from his anthology *What We Talk About When We Talk About Ann Frank*

Copies of *What we talk about when we talk about Ann Frank* are available in Netivot Shalom's Library.

One Bay One Book is a program created by BJE to connect a diverse cross section of participants in shared discussions and events, stimulated by a selected book and its themes. The book for this inaugural year is Nathan Englander's Award Winning *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*. One Bay One Book events are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

**YESHIVAT LEV PESACH**

**Two Nights – Three Opportunities for Learning  
How to Lead Your Own Seder with Harry and Judy Radousky  
Monday, March 18: 7:30-9:00 PM**

Ready to lead your very first (or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) Seder but panicking at the thought? Perhaps you've lead Seders but want to brush up on your "technique." Join Judy and Harry as they walk you through the steps of the Seder and offer suggestions and ideas about how to make your Seder the most rewarding yet.

**How to Add Meaning to Your Seder with Rabbi Shalom Bochner**  
**Tuesday, March 19: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Are you starting to become bored with your Seder – “Same Old Same Old?” Want to put more zest into the Seder, not to mention wowing your family and friends with your new insights and analyses of what the Seder is really about. Join Rabbi Bochner for an evening of learning and discovery.

**This is the Haggadah we use. What do you use? With David Stein**  
**Tuesday, March 19: 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM**

Sidurim may vary within a Jewish stream of ritual tradition, but Haggadot can vary from household to household. The worlds occupied by some Haggadot can be so different from what we may be accustomed to that we may find it hard to imagine a Seder using them. In our short workshop we will dig into several Haggadot to discover the world the compiler had in mind when they were composed.

## Previews of Coming Attractions

**SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: MARSHA EDELMAN**  
**MAY 3-4**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS MUSICAL WEEKEND WITH THE**  
**FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON JEWISH MUSIC**

## V'ZOT YISRAEL

**CHUG IVRIT**

**Sundays: 12:00-1:30 PM – January 20, February 3 and 17, March 3 and 17.**

The goal of the Chug Ivrit is to strengthen the ability of attendees to converse in Hebrew. If you are able to read Hebrew somewhat fluently, have some exposure to Hebrew conversation, and want to become more fluent, this is THE place to be. We are using as a study tool, the monthly publication "*The Jerusalem Post Ivrit*". Their articles are categorized based on difficulty with one, two or three stars. Attendees are encouraged to subscribe to this publication via the Jerusalem Post. Copies of articles we will be studying will be available at the session, but that limits the ability of participants to study at home and get the full benefit of the publication. If you are not already fluent in Hebrew conversation, this

program will be too advanced for you; but you are welcome to participate if you wish. There is no charge for Chug Ivrit.

### **ISRAELI SPEAKER SERIES**

First Sunday of the month, 10:15-11:45 CNS Library, light refreshments will be available

**January 6.** *Our hope is not yet lost: how performance art illuminates Israeli conflicts.* Stav Palti-Negev, M.A., Performance Studies, New York University

**February 3.** *A tale of a forest - the Yatir afforestation in the Negev desert - and how the anthroposphere controls its existence and resilience to climate change.* Naama Raz-Yaseef, postdoctoral scholar, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley

**March 3.** *The Contribution of the Biblical Scrolls from the Judaeen Desert to the Study of the Hebrew Bible.* Professor Zipora Talshir, Ben Gurion University, Department of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near East

### **V'ZOT YISRAEL BOOK GROUP**

Second Tuesday of every other month: 7:30-9:00 PM at CNS

**Tuesday January 8,** Sayed Kashua's, *Second Person Singular*, the third and latest novel by the creator of the Israeli TV series Arab Labor. Tragicomedy composed of intertwined stories tracing the lives of two Israeli-Arab protagonists.

**Also in January,** V'zot Yisrael's winter film festival will conclude on January 20 with two episodes of *Arab Labor* -- it will be interesting to compare Kashua's screenplays with this novel.

**March 12,** *A Strange Death.* Hillel Halkin's beautifully written and wisely confused account of the local history of the town he lives in, Zichron Yaakov, takes us back to the earliest days of Jewish settlement in Ottoman Palestine.

To get on the book group mailing list, contact us at  
[vezotyisrael@netivotshalom.org](mailto:vezotyisrael@netivotshalom.org)

**Support Us**

### The Adult Education Fund

Netivot Shalom, from its founding in 1989, has had a policy of providing most of its Adult programming at no-charge. Providing adult educational programming was a prime motivation for establishing our synagogue.

Because some of our teachers are professionals and need to be paid for their services, we charge tuition. However, people unable to pay the tuition are never turned away. We make up the difference needed by accessing our Adult Education Fund.

In addition, we use the fund to help develop programs and pay honoraria to visiting scholars.

Please consider a tax deductible contribution to the Adult Ed Fund the next time to come to a no-charge event as an expression of thanks to the synagogue.

Donation envelopes are available outside the office door. Mark your donation as for the Adult Education Fund. Thank you.