## ANNUAL PROGRAM 2019-2020 / 5780

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL קהילת בית ישראל

# Tefillah v'Torah SERVICES & WEEKLY CLASSES

### SERVICES

Weekday Shacharit | Morning Services Monday – Friday: 6:30 am Sunday and legal holidays: 8:00 am

Weekday Mincha & Ma'ariv | Afternoon & Evening Services Sunday – Thursday: five minutes before candle lighting

### **Shabbat Services**

Friday night mincha & kabbalat Shabbat:

Spring & Summer, 7:00 pm | Fall & Winter @ candle lighting time Shabbat Morning, 9:15 am

Please consult our website for exact times for candle lighting, Shabbat minchah, seudah shlishit, ma'ariv and havdalah.

### **WEEKLY CLASSES**

### Кеу Воокѕ іп Тапасн

M. Victoria Sutton • Mondays, 12:00 pm

Join us weekly as we make our way together through key books in Tanach, learning about central figures and narratives as we complete each book in its entirety.

### **Emmanuel Levinas**

### Muni Schweig • Wednesdays, 8:00 pm @ the Schweig home

In this learning group, we focus on Emmanuel Levinas' unique philosophical readings of the Talmud. Besides being quintessential illustrations of the art of reading, the essays express the deeply ethical vision of the human condition that makes Levinas one of the most important thinkers of our time.

### Talmudic Wisdom

R. Yonatan Cohen • Fridays, 9:00 am

Join us for a weekly class on Tractate Chagigah that explores major Jewish questions of practice and thought. In this week's class we will begin the second chapter of the tractate.

### **CONTEMPLATION PRACTICE FROM JEWISH TRADITION**

R. Ken Lipman, Ph.D. • Sundays, 9:30 am

On-going group for both beginner and experienced meditators with CBI Member R. Ken Lipman, Ph.D. Theory and practice based on the teachings of the Maggid of Mezeritch and other Hasidic masters.

Includes: Brief teaching / Text study • Practice • Questions / Discussion time. Drop-ins welcome.

### The Competing Powers of Feeling and Thinking: Self, Other, Action

7:30 pm, Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19

For millennia, humans have struggled to balance the competing powers of emotion and mind, feeling and thinking. How does Jewish tradition understand the relationship between emotion and thought, feeling and thinking? In this series, we shall explore this core question in terms of its practical relevance to three related vital questions: How do we understand ourselves as individuals, our humanity, Jewishly? How do we understand & value our relationships with others? How do we translate these views of self and others into moral and political actions? Our discussion will be based on classical and contemporary Jewish texts and a variety of other sources.

**Dr. Bernie Steinberg** is Director Emeritus, Harvard Hillel, teaches at the Graduate Theological Union and Kevah in Berkeley. He recently wrote an essay on Maimonides for Oxford University Press Bibliographies.

### Mussar Shmooze

### 7:30 pm, bi-monthly, Wednesday nights starting November 20

Join in ongoing Mussar *chaburot* or *hevrutot*, organized around a particular Mussar work, from classical to modern. The evening of learning, over hearty soup, will close with an opportunity for folks to share words of Torah from their learning. Please be in touch with Maharat Victoria Sutton to participate.

### Vices & Virtues

### 12:00 pm, Wednesdays starting November 13

Mussar is a spiritual Jewish practice focused on virtue-based ethics. Through the cultivation of inner virtues, such as patience, gratitude, and reverence, we improve ourselves. Our sessions will explore various vices and virtues as presented by classical books of Mussar.

**Rabbi Yonatan Cohen** serves as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Berkeley. He has been a guest lecturer on Jewish Medical Ethics at UC Berkeley and on Jewish Liturgy at the Magnes Museum of Jewish Art and Life. He also serves on the faculty of the Wexner Foundation. R. Cohen received rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and he is a Sr. Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute.

Feelings, Nothing More Than Feelings ADULT BULGATION SERIES

### Emotions in Halakha

### 7:30 pm, Tuesdays, November 26, December 3, December 10

Jewish law has a lot to say about how we act, but do emotional states have significance in halakha? We will look at some well-known human emotions through a halakhic lens, from the Talmud through rabbinic responsa, as well as some constructs around more elusive emotional states that have implications in Jewish law.

**Maharat Victoria Sutton** is the Director of Education and Community Engagement at Congregation Beth Israel, Berkeley. She received ordination from Yeshivat Maharat and graduated from Barnard College with a BA in Biological Sciences. She serves on the board of JFCS East Bay.

## "Alter" natives: Divergent Paths to Ethical Perfection in the Evolution of the Mussar Movement

7:30 pm, Tuesdays, January 21, 28, February 4

Rabbi Israel Salanter (1809-1883 innovated the Lithuanian Mussar Movement, an immersive and controversial approach to character development which applied ethical teachings and psychology to Torah study and meditative practice. Rabbi Israel's three primary disciples, the "Alters" (Elders of Kelm, Slabodka, and Novhardok, approached the monumental task of character development from different angles. In exploring a selection of their texts, we will focus on the creative and startlingly divergent ways in which the "Alters" interpreted Biblical passages and instituted Mussar exercises in order to inspire personal growth in their students. We will also consider how some of these approaches might be meaningful in a contemporary quest for personal development.

**Raizy Lichtenstein** has taught Judaic Studies and English Literature in a wide variety of educational settings. She holds a master's degree in English Literature from the Hebrew University. Raizy currently works as a Jewish educator at Edah and Kevah, and is an artist-in-residence fellow at the Atiq Maker Kollel. She thanks the CBI community for its friendship, enthusiasm, and continued warm welcome.

### Tell Your Story: Despair and Ecstasy

1:00-4:00 pm, Sundays, February 23, May 3

Each 3-hour workshop will teach you the structure of compelling storytelling and give you the opportunity to tell a story to other participants. Being able to tell a story well is a great skill to have. It's also a chance to bond with your fellow CBI members and hear a story about them you never have before!

**Michael Kaye** is a writer and performer who has garnered press in Rolling Stone, Billboard, The San Francisco Chronicle, and The Los Angeles Times. Michael has been a writing fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Julia and David White Colony, Ragdale, the Millay Colony for the Arts, and the WUJS-Arad Arts Program in Israel. He taught memoir writing for four years at the famed Gotham Writers' Workshop in New York and is the author of Mastering the Narrative. He received the President's Undergraduate Fellowship for his film work while at U.C. Berkeley, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with honors.

### Inner Light, Sacred Fire: Embracing the Whole Self in Hasidic Mysticism 7:30 pm, Tuesdays, February 11, 18, 25

This class explores Hasidic teachings on the emotional life and the importance of cultivating aspects of the self beyond the intellect. The first session will be devoted to Hasidic teachings on the importance of joy as a first-order religious value, understood in these sources not as a simplistic commitment to happiness but rather as a contemplative, mindful approach to life in the world. Our second class will take up the theme of tikkun ha-middot, on the process of uplifting and transforming one's inner spiritual qualities as the key to religious transformation. The third and final session will explore emotion in the teachings of Rabbi Kalonymous Kalman Shapira, the Esh Kodesh, including: his pre-war spiritual diary, his handbook for a mystical fellowship, his guidelines for emotional work, and, of course, in impassioned wartime sermons.

Ariel Evan Mayse joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, after previously serving as the Director of Jewish Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, and a research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Michigan. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har'el in Israel.

## When nature goes awry: communal response to tragedy 7:00 pm, Tuesdays, March 17, 24, 31

In this three-part series we will read selections from Tractate Ta'anit, a Tractate that deals with the collective response to drought and other natural disasters. How does the Talmud portray the emotional response to natural disaster? How do the liturgical and ceremonial responses address the grief and fear of the community? What is the role of prayer in responding to tragedy? Please join us as we explore rabbinic wisdom as it guides our human response to tragedy.

**Deena Aranoff** is Faculty Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She teaches rabbinic literature, medieval patterns of Jewish thought, and the broader question of continuity and change in Jewish history. Her recent publications engage with the subject of childcare, maternity and the making of Jewish culture.

### Divine and Human Feelings in the Zohar

### 7:30 pm, Wednesdays, May 6, 20

The Zohar loves to explore the inner life of God. In these two sessions we will study examples of how God feels, and how our feelings and God's feelings affect one another. Texts will be presented in the original Aramaic alongside a Hebrew translation and Daniel Matt's English translation (The Zohar: Pritzker Edition.

**Daniel Matt** is best known for his 9-volume annotated translation of the Zohar (The Zohar: Pritzker Edition), which has been hailed as "a monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought." Among his other books are: The Essential Kabbalah (translated into eight languages), Zohar: Annotated and Explained, and God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality (2nd edition, 2016). For 20 years he served as professor at the Graduate Theological Union; he has also taught at Stanford University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Currently he is writing a biography of Elijah the Prophet for the Yale series, Jewish Lives. He also teaches Zohar online (www.sup. org/zohar/course).





### BLU and Rabbi YITZ Greenberg November 8-9, 2019

Blu Greenberg is the founding president of JOFA, the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. She was also the Conference Chair of both the first and second International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy. She is the author of *How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household* (1985), *Black Bread: Poems After the Holocaust* (1994), and *On Women and Judaism: A View From Tradition* (1994).



Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg has served as Rabbi of the Riverdale Jewish Center, and is the Founding President, CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership and Founding President Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation. Rabbi Greenberg is a pioneer in Holocaust education and commemoration as well as in the Jewish Christian dialogue which sought to revise theology in light of the Shoah. He is the author of *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays, Living in the Image of God* (1988), *For the Sake of Heaven and Earth: The New Encounter of Judaism and Christianity* (2004) and *Sage Advice: Pirkei Avot* (2016).



### Dr. Chaim Saiman December 13-14

Dr. Chaim Saiman is a Professor of Law at Villanova University where he teaches Jewish law, and Contracts and Insurance law. He is an editor of the American Journal of Comparative Law, and has served as the Gruss Professor of Jewish Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, as a fellow in Religion and Public Life at Princeton University. In 2017, he was the Gruss Visiting Professor of Talmudic Law at Harvard Law School. He is the author of *Halakha: The Rabbinic Idea of Law* (2018).



### Dr. Rivka Press Schwartz February 14-15

Dr. Rivka Press Schwartz has spent more than fifteen years in the field of Jewish secondary education. She currently serves as the Associate Principal, General Studies at SAR High School, and has served as Director of General Studies at the Frisch School. Dr. Schwartz earned her BA in Physics and History of Science at Case Western Reserve University. She earned her MA and PhD from Princeton University, writing

# Shabbat Shalem SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

her dissertation about the cultural history of the Manhattan Project. In addition to teaching high school, she has served as an adjunct professor of history at Yeshiva and Stern Colleges She lectures widely both on the history of science and on Jewish topics, frequently addressing issues of contemporary importance in the American Jewish community.



### Dr. Malka Simkovich March 27-28

Dr. Malka Simkovich is the Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, as well as a Core Faculty member of Drisha Institute. She earned a doctoral degree in Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism from Brandeis University and a Masters degree in Hebrew Bible from Harvard University. Malka's articles have been published in such journals as the Harvard Theological Review and the Journal for the Study of Judaism, as well on online forums such as TheTorah.com and the Times of Israel. She is the author of *The Making of Jewish Universalism: From Exile to Alexandria* (2016), and *Discovering Second Temple Literature: The Scriptures and Stories That Shaped Early Judaism* (2018).

### Rai May Rab

### Rавы David Jaffe

### May 15-16 & Sunday May 17

Rabbi David Jaffe is the author of *Changing the World from the Inside Out*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award. He leads the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project, which integrates Jewish spiritual wisdom and social change. He teaches Mussar and Chassidic wisdom throughout the country with such organizations as The Institute for Jewish Spirituality, The Mussar Institute, PRESIDE and Hebrew College and is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Boston University School of Theology's Religion and Conflict Transformation program. David has rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Bat Ayin and a joint Master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work and the Jewish Theological Seminary. David lives in Sharon, MA with his wife, two teenage boys, a charismatic cat, and four feisty hens.



# Tot Shabbat, Mishmash & NCSY YOUTH EDUCATION

### Тот Ѕнавват

Families with children ages 0-5 are welcome to our Tot-focused Kabbalat Shabbat, filled with Shabbat songs, stories and movement followed by Kiddush and challah. A kid-friendly (and parent-friendly) catered Shabbat dinner is served following Kabbalat Shabbat. Registration required.

- November 15
- December 6
- January 24
- February 21

CBI also hosts Tot Shabbat on Shabbat mornings at 11:15 am, geared to children ages 0-3.

### Мізнтазн

Mishmash offers CBI's parents and children an opportunity to study in pairs in a unique beit midrash atmosphere. For guidance in choosing learning materials best suited to each individual need, please contact Maharat Victoria Sutton at maharatvictoria@gmail.com. Children in grades K-8 and their parents are invited to participate.

The evening begins with pizza, as parents and children settle into their learning spaces. At the close of each Mishmash, children share words of Torah from their learning that evening.

Mishmash meets twice a month, November to March, on Motzei Shabbat (begins about 30 min after Shabbat ends):

- November 16, 6:15 pm
- November 23, 6:15 pm
- December 7, 6:15 pm
- December 14, 6:15 pm
- January 4, 6:30 pm

- January 25, 6:30 pm
- February 1, 6:45 pm
- February 15, 7 pm
- March 7, 7:15 pm Siyum!

### NCSY Latte & Learning (for teens in grades 9 to 12)

Starbucks, 2128 Oxford St. Berkeley • Mondays, 7:30 pm

Our Special Blend: Coffee & Torah every week. In addition to coffee, NCSY's Latte & Learning initiative serves up Judaism in a relaxed, inspirational, and fun environment. L&L is the place for teens to ask questions, voice their feelings, and connect with each other.



LEARNING

### Women's Tefillah

Join CBI women's community for a series of opportunities to pray, learn Torah and sing together.

Please contact Maharat Victoria Sutton (maharatvictoria@gmail.com) if you would like to learn more about participating, serving as gabbayit, Torah reader, prayer leader, teach or sponsor seudah shelishit.

Women's Tefillah will meet for Shabbat mincha, Torah reading, seudah shelishit & learning on the following dates (1st Shabbat of the month):

- November 2
- December 7
- January 4
- February 1
- March 7
- May 2

**Simcнат Toraн ReaDing** Tuesday, October 22 @12 pm

**Megillat Esther Women's Reading** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 @12 pm

### Women's Talmud Study

CBI will be participating in Talmud study to complete the tractate of Moed Kattan, towards the *Siyum HaShas* for Women (hadran.org.il)

**Women's Hallel & Hadran Learning Kickoff** Thursday, November 28 @9 am



### CBI Sock & Underwear Drive

Benefitting Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing



Between Rosh HaShanah and Simchat Torah, join us as we collect new (unopened, unused) socks and underwear for YEAH! Housed in Berkeley, YEAH! Provides shelter and support for at-risk homeless youth.

### CBI Cooks at the Shelter

### Benefiting the Dwight Way Shelter (2140 Dwight Way)

CBI is committed to helping our local community by preparing and serving a fresh-cooked and hearty dinner to more than 75 clients at the Dwight Way Shelter, which accommodates both a men's and women's shelter. This is a great opportunity for both teens, families and adults to become involved in justice and loving-



kindness. We need volunteers to assist in shopping, cooking, serving and clean up. Donations towards the cost of shelter meals are welcome.

5:00-6:30 Prep & Cook Shift 6:30-7:30 Serve & Clean Up Shift

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the Month

- September 25, 2019
- October 23, 2019
- November 27, 2019
- December 25, 2019
- January 22, 2020
- February 26, 2020

- March 25, 2020
- April 22, 2020
- May 27, 2020
- June 24, 2020
- July 22, 2020
- August 26, 2020

### Holiday Dinner Drive

Benefiting the Alameda Community Food Bank

116,000 people (1 in 5) residents of Alameda County rely on the Alameda County Community Food Bank services, often faced with impossible

discussions between rent or gas and food. A holiday meal is too often simply out of the question. Your donation of \$30 provides 6 family meals, your donation of \$100 provides 20 holiday meals.





## Congregation Beth Israel

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