

The Moses and Frances Cohen Center for Adult Jewish Education  
at Beth El Congregation



## Adult Education Life Long Learning 2011 - 2012

The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.

## 2011 - 2012 Adult Education Registration Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2011 - 2012 Classes or Programs with Registration Fees or Material Fees

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

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Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Total for all Programs/Material Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check payable to Beth El Congregation. If program is free please leave all information regarding fees blank. Send this form in to register for classes.

## Monday Mornings:

### **Our Prayers - Where They Came From/What They Mean**

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Sandy Winters

Dates: October 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 28; December 5, 12, 19

January, 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 16, 23, 30

Room: Agus Library

Description: We will examine the origins of the synagogue service and the Siddur, which, in one form or another is used in every synagogue. We will look at the wording of our prayers and how the Siddur has changed over the many years of our history.

## Monday Evenings:

### **Intermediate Siddur Hebrew**

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

Instructor: Wendy Farley

Dates: November 21, 28; December 12, 19, January 9, 16, 23, 30;

February 13, 20, 27; March 12, 19, 26; April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21; June 4

Room: Schuster Library

Description: The class is focused on accuracy and fluency in Siddur reading.

### **Agus Academy (Fall)**

#### **“What does it mean to be Big “C” Conservative?”**

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Session I: November 14, 21, 28, Dec 12, 19 - Rabbis will be teaching.

Session II\*: January 9, 16, 23, 30 - Sandy Winters will be teaching.

Session III: February 13, 20, 27; March 12, 19, 26 - Rabbis will be teaching.

Room: Agus Library

Description: The Beth El Board of Directors recently changed the congregation's mission statement so that it would include the phrase "affiliated with the Conservative Movement." What does it mean to be a "Conservative Congregation?" For that matter, what does it mean to be a "Conservative Jew?" Does it mean we think about God in a particular way? Does it mean that we practice our Judaism in a particular way? Or learn, or pray, or celebrate in a particular way?

Our ongoing Monday evening Agus Academy learning series continues in the 2011-2012 calendar year with an in depth exploration of Conservative Judaism. In the course of the year, we will learn about what the Movement has to teach us regarding theology, halachah (Jewish law), and ritual practice. We will study the history of Conservative Judaism and some of its most influential thinkers. Throughout the year, we will continually come back to the question “Why Conservative Judaism?” asking it about our congregation, and our individual Jewish selves.

\*Session II with Sandy Winters will include “Art as Midrash” on January 9 with New York artist Fran Medoff. The remaining three sessions are titled “Our Prayers - Where They Came From/ What They Mean”. See Monday Morning for course description.

## Monday Evenings (Continued):

### **Agus Academy (Spring)**

#### **Reclaiming the Center - Discovering Our Common Ground, Exploring Our Differences: Interfaith Conversations**

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Refreshments, 6:45 p.m.)

Instructor: Institute for Jewish and Christian Studies Staff and Rabbis

Dates: April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21; June 4

Description: “Reclaiming the Center” is a new adult education initiative by ICJS that explores not only what Jews and Christians have in common, but what is distinctive and particular about each tradition. This fall the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies launches this program that brings together Jews and Christians from churches and synagogues across Baltimore. Beth El is excited to host the spring session. The program, entitled “Encountering our Sacred Texts,” takes place in two six-week sessions: one in the fall, and one in the spring. Each class will include text study, small group discussion, and lecture by the staff of the ICJS.

Costs: \$60 for Fall Session and \$60 for Spring Session

The fall portion of this program is being held at Chizuk Amuno Congregation on September 10, 12 and October 17 and at Brown Memorial Church on September 26, October 3 and 10. For more information on the fall session contact Mary Krastel, ICJS, at (410) 494-7161.

### **Jewish Short Stories**

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Gail Lipsitz

Dates: November 7; December 5; January 3 [Tuesday]; February 6; March 5; April 2

Room: Agus Library

Description: Enjoy reading selected short fiction by contemporary Jewish writers of note, and participate in lively group discussions led by Gail Lipsitz. A copy of each story will be provided one month in advance to allow for leisurely reading.

Costs: Material fee: \$15 for Beth El members; \$20 for friends and guests.

## Tuesdays:

### **Baltimore Board of Rabbis Adult Institute**

Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Baltimore area clergy and academics

Dates: October 18, 25; November 1, 8

Description: The oldest cross-congregational learning experience in the Baltimore Jewish community. There will be 2 sessions each evening. Choose from over 15 different courses taught by Baltimore area rabbis and academics. Brochures will be mailed in the beginning of September.

## Wednesday Mornings:

### **Yours, Mine and Ours - A Jewish/Christian Conversation about Sacred Stories**

**Time:** 9:30a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Rosann Catalano, Rabbi Schwartz & Rabbi Saroken

**Session I:** October 26; November 2, 9, 16, 30; December 7, 14;

January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1

**Session II:** February 22, 29; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23

**Room:** Agus Library

**Description:** Jews and Christians share a significant biblical heritage that is often understood in radically different ways. Begun last year, this course continues the study of sacred texts and the variety of ways in which they both challenge and give meaning to our lives. Our study will be led by Rosann Catalano, Ph.D., Staff Scholar at the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies, and a rotation of the Beth El rabbis.

**NOTE:** While the format for this class will be similar to last year's, we will be studying different texts.

<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Beth El Member</b>	<b>General Community</b>
Session I	\$100	\$150
Sessions I & II	\$150	\$200

## Wednesday Evenings:

### **Baltimore Hebrew Institute – Hebrew Classes**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Instructor:** Baltimore Hebrew Institute Faculty

**Dates:** Fall Semester: September: 14, 21; October: 5, 26; November: 2, 9, 16, 30; December: 7, 14

Spring Semester: January 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29;

March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16

**Description:**

**Introduction to Biblical Hebrew** - Introduces students to the basic skills needed for reading and understanding the Hebrew Bible in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Focus on grammar and translation will provide the fundamentals necessary to explore the Biblical text, and guide students on an exploration of the linguistic connections, deeper meanings, and subtle humor too often lost in translation. No previous Hebrew experience necessary.

**Modern Hebrew Ulpan - Absolute Beginner**- Study with experienced professional Israeli Hebrew educators. Learn to read, write and speak using an innovative multimedia approach. No previous knowledge of Hebrew is required.

**Modern Hebrew Ulpan - Advanced Beginner** - this beginner level is for students with basic knowledge of Hebrew. Students will see improvement in Hebrew reading, writing and speaking skills, and increase their Hebrew vocabulary and grammar skills. Pre-requisites: able to read and write block and script Hebrew font. Modern

**Hebrew Ulpan - Intermediate** - Increase your spoken fluency with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, and conversational Hebrew. Appreciate Israeli life and culture with new multimedia materials. Pre-requisites: familiarity with Hebrew vocabulary and grammar, and the ability to read and write block and script Hebrew font.

## Wednesday Evenings (Continued):

**Modern Hebrew Ulpan - Advanced** - This course will focus on conversational Hebrew and reading comprehension. In addition to new multimedia materials, students will be learning from Hebrew language newspapers and literature. This is an immersion class. Pre-requisites: Have some fluency in Hebrew speaking, able to read and write script Hebrew font.

**Costs:** \$180/course

Beth El members get \$15 discount

### **A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH CHIZUK AMUNO**

#### **From Golden Age to Expulsion: History, Society and Culture of Medieval Sephardic Jewry**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Instructor:** Professor Jonathan Ray

**Dates:** October 26; November 2, 9, 16, 30; December 7, 14, 21; January 11

**Location:** Chizuk Amuno

**Description:** The history of the Jews of Spain represents one of the most varied and remarkable chapters in the history of the Jewish people. This course will provide an overview of the nature and development of Sephardic (Hispano-Jewish) history and culture between Late Antiquity and the expulsion of 1492. We will explore the major social, cultural and intellectual trends of Jewish civilization in the Iberian Peninsula through secondary readings and the analysis of medieval religious, legal, and literary texts. A central theme will be the analysis of the conflict and cooperation between the Sephardim and the two major religious systems of the medieval and early modern Mediterranean: Christianity and Islam.

**Cost:** \$295

## Saturdays:

### **Parashah Study**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**Instructor:** Rabbis and Sandy Winters

**Dates:** Saturday Mornings

**Room:** Agus Library

**Description:** Our Rabbis and Sandy Winters lead an informal group study of the weekly Torah portion. Everyone is invited to join in this casual and interactive session. Refreshments are available before and after class.

## Adult B'nai Mitzvah Classes

**Instructor:** Sandy Winters & Rabbis

If interested please call Sandy Winters for dates and times of classes.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Marks, Bnai Mitzvah and Adult Education Program Administrator at [ellenm@bethelbalto.com](mailto:ellenm@bethelbalto.com) or 410-580-5166.