

**5772**  
**(2011-2012)**

Kol Emeth Congregation Adult Education  
*Paths to Jewish Empowerment*

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Dear Kol Emeth Congregants,

Welcome to the Adult Education offerings at Kol Emeth for the coming year! This year's theme, *Paths to Jewish Empowerment*, will bring about many new and unique programs that we hope will appeal to a wide range of congregants.

The mission of Adult Education program at Kol Emeth is to provide a Jewish adult learning experience designed to inform and inspire, to strengthen connections to our heritage and to each other. Our congregation offers a wide array of learning opportunities that help adults explore the many facets of our Jewish tradition and grow in understanding, both intellectually and spiritually. We offer opportunities at a range of levels and are welcoming.

All classes listed here are free, unless specifically noted, and most of them are taught by members of our congregation. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderfully rich and available pool of resources from which we can tap into and share with you.

Finally, like many of our other activities at Kol Emeth, our courses and offerings are always evolving. To keep abreast of the latest events, please refer to the Voice, the Kol Emeth online calendar, flyers posted at Kol Emeth, the weekly email announcements and new this year, the Adult Education eNewsletter!

I look forward to seeing you at our exciting Adult Education events this year.

L'Shanah Tovah!

Deborah Yuster  
Adult Education Chair

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## ENDOWED LECTURES

The Cohen Lecture – In memory of Mr. Larry Cohen.  
The Franklin Lecture – In memory of Mr. Richard Franklin.  
The Weintraub Lecture – In memory of Mr. David Weintraub.

Speakers for 2012 have not yet been selected.

## SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

The "Art" of Torah: How the Arts Bring God's Presence into Our Midst  
Director of Israel Programs, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America  
Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz

What role can art play in Jewish education and bringing God's presence into our midst? We are fortunate to be hosting Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz over Shabbat weekend for a very special program where we will explore the role of the visual and exegetical arts in creating sacred community.

March 30 - April 1, 2012

## JEWISH BASICS AND BEYOND

Cycling through the Year: Creating a Deeper Connection to the Jewish Holidays  
Led by Rabbi Sarah Graff & Rabbi Laurie Matzkin

Whether this is your 1st time or your 50th time celebrating the Jewish holidays, take a little time to study, reflect, and consider what each holiday can mean for you this year.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – Tuesday, September 20 – Rabbi Graff  
Sukkot – Tuesday, October 18 – in Rabbi Graff's Sukkah  
Chanukkah – Thursday, December 8 – Rabbi Matzkin  
Purim – Thursday, February 23 – Rabbi Graff  
Passover – Thursday, March 22 – Rabbi Matzkin  
Shavuot – Thursday, May 17 – Rabbi Matzkin

Location: Kol Emeth (unless otherwise noted)

Time: 8:15pm-9:15pm

Drop-ins welcome.

Questions? – Email [rabbigr Raff@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbigr Raff@kolemeth.org) or [rabbimat zkin@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbimat zkin@kolemeth.org).

Intro to Talmud  
Rabbi David Booth

A chance to explore what Talmud is, why it plays such a key role in Rabbinic literature, and to get a sense of what Talmud learning feels like. No prior knowledge expected.

November 9, December 7, and December 21

12-1pm at KE in the Small Sanctuary

Connecting: An In-Depth Look at Jewish Study, Practices and Prayer  
Rabbi David Booth

This year long course will be an opportunity to engage more fully in Judaism. We will examine the discipline and practice of prayer with the goal of making Shabbat more familiar. We will review the weekly Torah portion in the light of what it means for us today. Finally we will explore other mitzvot in Judaism like Shabbat and Tikkun Olam (social action).

Wednesday evenings from 6:45pm-7:45pm beginning on December 7<sup>th</sup>

Introduction to the Jewish Experience  
Rabbi Ruth Adar

This three-part course is an introduction to Judaism designed to equip students to engage with Jewish life and Jewish institutions. In Part 1, we study the Jewish lifecycle in the context of Jewish understandings of God and the cosmos. In Part 2, we learn about Jewish history and texts in order to understand Judaism in our own time. And in Part 3, we look at aspects of Jewish community, the People Israel, including our own Bay Area Jewish community.

Each part can stand on its own as a separate course, and the three may be taken in any order. We welcome new students in the fall, winter, and spring.

Please visit the website <http://jewishexperienceonline.com/paloalto/> that Rabbi Adar has set up for this class.

Thursdays, October 27 – May 24, 2012 (23 sessions)

Location: OFJCC, Kol Emeth and Etz Chayim

7-9pm (no class 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/24)

\$250; \$200/members

Kol Emeth is a co-sponsor of Lehrhaus classes. For more information, or to register, go to <http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/series/2011/fall/I100-OFJ/> or call 510-845-6420.

## Intro to Hebrew Reading

Jeff Schwarz

Come learn aleph-bet in a fun and supportive setting. We will concentrate on decoding Hebrew letters and vowels to form words. Fluency will be learned using songs, prayers, and writing. Texts and learning materials are provided free to Kol Emeth members. There is a \$15 materials fee for non-members.

If you have taken this class before and need a brush-up, please join and review with us.

Mondays, October 10 – December 12, 2011 (10 sessions)

Location: Kol Emeth

8-9pm

## Introductory Yiddush

Jon Levitow

Why take Yiddish? Consider the following: the number of Yiddish speakers in the world today may be close to a million and is probably growing. There are regular degree programs and increasingly popular summer programs in Yiddish across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Israel. Modern Yiddish literature flourished for only a hundred years but can be compared in depth and sensitivity to the great literatures of the world. Yiddish is a pathway into both the Hebrew language and Jewish tradition - as they survived for a thousand years in Europe and as they emerged in modern Israeli and Diaspora culture. Yiddish is a blend of Hebrew, German, Old French, and Polish languages, as well as Russian, European, and Jewish history - seven classes for the price of one! This course will welcome students at all levels, providing a review of basic grammar and vocabulary while also immersing students in Yiddish conversation and literature.

Jon Levitow currently teaches Yiddish at Stanford and at UC Santa Cruz. He received a Ph.D. in English literature from Princeton and a BA from Stanford. He has studied Yiddish at the Los Angeles Arbeter Ring (Workmen's Circle) and at the California Institute for Yiddish Culture and Language's intensive language program, where he has also served as an instructor. He is a graduate of the Uriel Weinreich Yiddish Program at NYU and has published English translations of works by Yiddish poets Yisroel Shtern, Aaron Zeitlin, and Yosl Birstein.

Thursdays, September 15 – December 15, 2011 (10 sessions)

Location: Kol Emeth

7-9pm (no class 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/24)

\$200; \$180/members

Kol Emeth is a co-sponsor of Lehrhaus classes. For more information, or to register, go to <http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/course/2011/fall/L350-KE/> or call 510-845-6420.

## JEWISH TEXTS

### Talmud Class

Rabbi David Booth

Now entering its 37th year of continuous study, the Sunday Morning Talmud group is studying Berkhof. In this section of Talmud, we are learning a great deal about the origins of our prayer and blessing practices as well as some deep theological considerations of gratitude. Newcomers are welcome, but be warned – it's hard to stop coming once you start!

Every Sunday from 10:15am-11:15am

### *Talmud Class Learning Special!*

#### **Afflicting the Soul: A Text Study in Talmud Yoma**

Rabbi David Booth

Judaism generally avoids ascetic practice. Why then is Yom Kippur focused on a turning away from the physical? In this study we will look at the 5 forbidden practices of Yom Kippur and why the Rabbis required these 5 and no others.

Sunday, September 25 from 10:15am-11:15am

## SPECIAL SERIES

### Job: A Serious Man?

Rabbi David Booth

In this four-week class, we will look at Job alongside the Coen brothers recent movie, *A Serious Man*, in the hopes of wrestling with stories, the meaning of stories, and the question of God's capriciousness.

Thursdays, beginning October 27 - November 17 (4 sessions)

Location: Kol Emeth/Library

6:45pm – 8:00pm

\$18; free/members

Kol Emeth is a co-sponsor of Lehrhaus classes. For more information, or to register, go to <http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/course/2011/fall/T200-KE/> or call 510-845-6420.

## Engaging Israel: A Values Curriculum

Led by Rabbi David Booth & Rabbi Janet Marder

Designed by the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, this stimulating curriculum gives us an opportunity to explore the issues involved in building and sustaining a Jewish state. We will drill down a level below the day to day issues, and build up a set of sources and vocabulary to help us connect with and better understand how we are realizing the dream of Israel.

Tuesdays, beginning January 10, 2012 (in partnership with Beth Am)

## Shabbat Shiurim

### To Be an American: How Irving Berlin Assimilated Jewishness and Blackness in his Early Songs

Kimberly Gelbwasser

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, millions of immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Mediterranean countries arrived in the United States. New York City, in particular, became a hub where various nationalities coexisted and intermingled. Adding to the immigrant population were massive waves of former slaves migrating from the South. In this radically multicultural environment, Irving Berlin, a Jewish-Russian immigrant, became a songwriter. The cultural interaction that had the most profound effect upon Berlin's early songwriting from 1907 to 1914 was that between his own Jewish population and the African-American population in New York City.

This lecture, will examine stereotypical ethnic markers in Berlin's early songs that reveal how he first revised and then traded his old Jewish identity for a new American identity as the "King of Ragtime."

Soprano Kimberly Gelbwasser recently graduated with her Doctorate in Vocal Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). As a soloist, Kimberly most recently appeared in concert with the Coastal Symphony of Georgia as well as in recital at Cañada College in California. Kimberly has spent numerous summers studying and singing abroad. While Kimberly is currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Kimberly continues to serve as High Holy Days Cantorial Soloist at Temple Sholom in Cincinnati. For information on her private voice studio, please visit "Kimberly Gelbwasser Voice Studio" on Facebook.

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Location: Kol Emeth / Main Sanctuary

1:15 - 2:15pm

## Jewish Spirituality in the Mirror of the Hebrew Language

Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David

This is a two part series exploring how Jewish spirituality is expressed and amplified in the mirror (aspaqlaria) of the Hebrew Language. According to Tsvi, one cannot properly understand or properly practice Jewish spirituality without deep - head and heart - insight into certain key Hebrew words. In these two talks, we will explore in depth the two words YHWH - the primal name of God in Judaism, whose root is the verb to be, and berachah - blessing, whose root means the knee or kneeling which are amongst the first three words of the classic rabbinic blessing formula. And thus leads to a profound understanding - heart as well as head - of gratitude in the Jewish spiritual tradition.

2 sessions: Saturday, November 19, 2011 and Saturday, March 17, 2012

Location: Kol Emeth / Main Sanctuary

1:15 - 2:15pm

Tsvi spent many years in the software industry as a business analyst, software consultant, technical trainer (object modeling, C++, Unix internals), and object oriented developer (Ruby, C#, Java, C++). He authored a book on Object Oriented Design for C++, and has written and taught on topics ranging from use cases, business process modeling to object modeling. He has also taught in the intersection of Kabbalah and science, notably a course on Kabbalah and Quantum Mechanics. Tsvi holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from UC Berkeley, was ordained a rabbi at AJR CA, and is an inter-faith chaplain (CPE II) trained at the Palo Alto VA Hospital.

Shiurim are led by a variety of different teachers, usually from the talented pool of Kol Emeth members. Stay around after Kiddush and join the animated and enlightening discussions!

## ONGOING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### The Mitzvah Initiative - Year 2

Led by Rabbi David Booth & Rabbi Sarah Graff

Last year we piloted Year 1 of Arnie Eisen's fantastic Mitzvah Curriculum, drawing 30-40 adults each Shabbat morning for engaging study and lively discussion on the role of Mitzvah in our lives. This year the focus is on "Making a Leap of Action," translating our study into practice. Participants will be invited to try out a new mitzvah, while coming together for study and reflection each Shabbat. This year's curriculum has a special emphasis on writings of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

12 Shabbat Mornings, beginning November 5, 2011

Location: Kol Emeth

10am - 11:15am

To sign up, contact Rabbi Graff at [rabbigr Raff@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbigr Raff@kolemeth.org).

## Parent Education Circles

Rabbi Laurie Matzkin

Congregation Kol Emeth is committed to life-long Jewish learning. We understand that being a Jewish parent can involve special knowledge, skill sets, and experiences. Our new Shabbat Morning Parent Ed Circle is designed for parents who seek to create, instill, and preserve a Jewish identity for your family.

These sessions, modeled after last year's successful Mitzvah Initiative, offer our community a chance meet with our rabbis to:

- Explore Jewish perspectives on different parenting issues
- Engage in text-based discussions
- Share ideas about establishing rituals, customs, and traditions at home
- Examine ways to involve children in your Jewish home life and integrate Judaism into your family

Dates: 10/15, 12/10, 2/11, 5/12

11:20am-12:10pm (after Junior Congregation)

Parents are always encouraged to join our services! For more information, contact Rabbi Matzkin at [rabbimatzkin@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbimatzkin@kolemeth.org).

## Sh'ma Salon

Sh'ma is a monthly journal dedicated to Jewish thought on key issues. We are fortunate to have this national publication now located in Menlo Park. We meet and discuss the issues raised each month on topics such as Israel, Jewish weddings, and the role of prayer. Ellen Bob, Alan Bennett, Janis Popp and Lee Shulman host the meetings.

If you are interested, please email Alan Bennett at [alanbennett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alanbennett@sbcglobal.net) and he will add you to the list.

## Women's Study Group

Rabbi Sarah Graff

The Women's Study Group, led by Rabbi Sarah Graff, offers a forum for women of all ages to study text and share life experiences in the context of Torah. This year we plan to explore some of the Prophets, in addition to the weekly Torah portion and Jewish holidays throughout the year. Participants come with all different levels of Jewish knowledge, and drop-ins are most welcome.

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, beginning November 3, 2011

Location: Kol Emeth/Classroom #8

11am - 12:30pm

Contact Rabbi Graff at [rabbigruff@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbigruff@kolemeth.org) to get on the Women's Study Group email list.

SAVE THE DATE!

### **Kabbalah of Creativity (including Software!)**

**Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David**

Rabbi Tsvi returns to Kol Emeth to teach a ½ day workshop. Participants should bring a creative problem that they want to bring into the world. The result at the end of the day is a detailed plan for getting there. Participants will work in chevruta teams, also referred to as pair programming in the software world, and will use the Ten Sefirot of divine creation to work through each of the sefirot on the path of our own creativity.

October 30, 2011

Location: Small Sanctuary

1:00pm-5:00pm

Tsvi spent many years in the software industry as a business analyst, software consultant, technical trainer (object modeling, C++, Unix internals), and object oriented developer (Ruby, C#, Java, C++). He authored a book on Object Oriented Design for C++, and has written and taught on topics ranging from use cases, business process modeling to object modeling. He has also taught in the intersection of Kabbalah and science, notably a course on Kabbalah and Quantum Mechanics. Tsvi holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from UC Berkeley, was ordained a rabbi at AJR CA, and is an inter-faith chaplain (CPE II) trained at the Palo Alto VA Hospital.

### **A Kristallnacht Remembrance**

**Max Drimmer and Herman Shine**

Join us for a special viewing of "Escape From Auschwitz: A Portrait of Friendship". This moving documentary traces the lifelong friendship of Max Drimmer and Herman Shine from their youth, to their internment as teenagers in Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz, to their escape from Auschwitz, to their improbable journey to new lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Max Drimmer and Herman Shine, who both experienced Kristallnacht, will be with us for the film and for questions and answers afterwards.

November 9, 2011

8:00pm

For more information, contact Deborah Yuster at [deborahyuster@gmail.com](mailto:deborahyuster@gmail.com).

## Kol Emeth's 6th Annual Women's Retreat in the Redwoods

Rabbi Sarah Graff

Join us for a weekend of singing, relaxing, praying and learning. Deepen your connections with other women from Kol Emeth. Spend a spiritual Shabbat in the beauty of nature. Newcomers encouraged. We're holding spots for you!

July 13-15, 2012

For more information, contact Rabbi Graff at [rabbigruff@kolemeth.org](mailto:rabbigruff@kolemeth.org).

## Shomer Shabbat Camping Trip to Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park

Seth Watkins

Experience the awe of creation and the relaxation of Shabbat like never before! Where? Camping at Lassen Volcanic National Park in far northern California. What is there to see? Sulfuric steam vents! Perpetual geysers! Volcanic crater! Curious deer, chipmunks and bears!

August 31 - September 3, 2012

For more information, contact Seth Watkins at [sethtiger@aol.com](mailto:sethtiger@aol.com).

## HOLIDAYS

### Yom Kippur

#### Anger: Finding the Balance

Rabbi David Booth

Anger is one of the most destructive of emotions, and almost one of the most common. Rabbinic wisdom and stories have a lot to offer us in understanding anger triggers, in seeing what anger creates, and learning ways of utilizing this potentially destructive emotion for holiness. At the Yom Kippur break, we will take some time to explore these issues of anger and perhaps take home with us a great sense of self-mastery.

October 8

2:15pm (Beth Am)

## Forgiveness

Dr. Rivka Sherman-Gold

Even though the concept “forgiveness” is mentioned frequently in daily life and also in Biblical and liturgical texts, forgiveness remains an elusive concept, having many meanings and expressions. This discussion will look at the forgiveness dilemma presented in Simon Weisenthal’s book “The Sunflower”, the approach developed by Fred Luskin in “Forgive for Good”, Biblical examples, and any aspects of forgiveness that the participants would like to discuss, such as purpose of forgiveness, asking for forgiveness, granting forgiveness, forgiving God when we hurt, and forgiving ourselves.

October 8

2:15pm (Kol Emeth)



SIGN UP FOR OUR eNEWSLETTER!

Want to be in the loop on our exciting new programs? Receive timely information regarding our adult education programs by signing up for our monthly eNewsletter. Please contact [adulthood@kolemeth.org](mailto:adulthood@kolemeth.org) and ask to be added to the distribution list.

#### IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Kol Emeth is always very appreciative of any ideas or suggestions that our members would like to contribute to the Adult Education program. Ideally, and whenever possible, the programs should be taught by one of our congregants or staff members.

To submit your ideas, please email [adulthood@kolemeth.org](mailto:adulthood@kolemeth.org).

All proposed classes will be evaluated by the Adult Education Committee.

#### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you are passionate about Jewish learning and want to contribute in some way to Kol Emeth's Adult Education program, please email [adulthood@kolemeth.org](mailto:adulthood@kolemeth.org).