



# ADULT EDUCATION



## FALL 2018

*Jewish Community of Amherst*  
742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
413.256.0160 ~ [www.jcamherst.org](http://www.jcamherst.org)

JCA adult education programs reflect religious, secular, practical, and cultural aspects of Judaism. We hope that you will find something that appeals to you.

Register and contribute online at <http://bit.ly/jca1819Faec>

If you prefer to register by mail and contribute via check, please print the registration form at the end of this brochure or pick one up in the JCA lobby.

## FALL 2018 PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

### **Lunch and Learn**

*Rabbi Benjamin Weiner*

Wednesdays • 12:15 – 1:15 pm

### **Sephardic Civilization**

*Ilan Stavans*

September 25; October 2, 9

Tuesdays • 7 – 9 pm

### **Prayerbook Hebrew Literacy**

*Janis Levy*

October 15 – December 3

Mondays • 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### **Meet Me at the Well Book Reading**

*Jane Yolen and Barbara Diamond Goldin*

Sunday, October 14 • 11 am – 12:30 pm

### **Israeli Dancing**

*Randi Stein*

October 23, 30; November 13, 20

Tuesdays • 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### **Israeli Film Series**

Sundays • 2 – 5 pm

October 21: *The Band's Visit*

December 9: *Zero Motivation*

### **Greatest Hits of the Talmud**

*Rabbi Devorah Jacobson*

October 31; November 7, 14, 28; December 5, 12

Wednesdays • 6:30 – 7:45 pm

### **Creating a Jewish Home**

*facilitated by Melanie Lewis*

November 4, December 9

Sundays • 10:45 – 11:45 am

### **“A Reason to Remember” Exhibition Tour**

*Deborah Roth-Howe*

November 7 • 4 – 5:30 pm • JCA Keshet only

### **Orthodox Feminism**

*A conversation with Rabbi Lila Kagedan*

Sunday, December 2 • 1 – 3 pm

If you would like to suggest future programming, please contact a member of the Adult Education Committee: Barbara Burkart (*chair*), Jane Brodwyn, David Glassberg, Diane Gnepp, Phyllis Herda, Jonathan Lewis, Melanie Lewis, Ruth Smith, Linda Terry, Boris Wolfson, Janis Wolkenbreit, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner (*ex officio*)

## Lunch and Learn

*Rabbi Benjamin Weiner*

Wednesdays • 12:15 – 1:15 pm

Now in its seventh year, Lunch and Learn continues its investigation of *Halakha*, or the tradition of Jewish law. Over the past few years, we have investigated a variety of topics: holiday observance and perspectives on Shabbat, divorce, suicide, death and mourning, purity and impurity, *kitniyot*, the giving of *tzedaka*.

The conversation is intellectually stimulating and emotionally expansive, giving participants the opportunity to deepen their traditional Jewish knowledge and process the thoughts and feelings that the material brings to light.

Please be assured that if you have not already become a part of this meaningful, oddly exhilarating, and even fun exploration, it is never too late. You can come and go as you're able, and drop-ins are always welcome. Bring your own lunch, and please remember that JCA kashrut rules allow only for dairy and pareve foods inside the building—no meat!

No registration needed.



*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

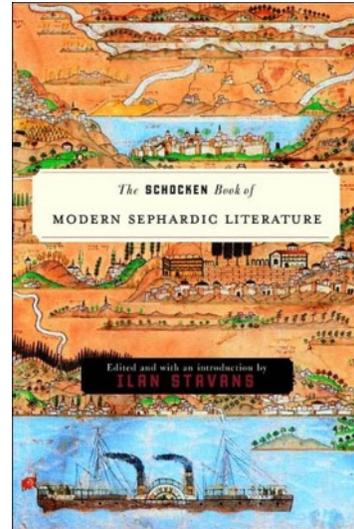
# Sephardic Civilization: Sense and Sensibility

*Ilan Stavans*

Tuesdays • September 25, October 2, 9  
7 – 9 pm

A journey across the complexities of Sephardic civilization across time, from 1492 to the present, focusing on history, politics, culture, and rabbinical debates.

- *Lecture One: “The Wound of Expulsion”*  
An exploration of “La Convivencia” of the three major world religions—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—in Spain up to 1492.
- *Lecture Two: “Unity and Dispersion”*  
A scanning of the diasporic possibilities that came with “marranismo” from the Expulsion to the early twentieth century.
- *Lecture Three: “Adiós España”*  
Sephardic life in contemporary United States, Israel, Latin America, and elsewhere.



Participants should acquire the *Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature*, edited by Ilan Stavans (2005; ISBN 978-0805242287)



**Ilan Stavans** is Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, publisher of Restless Books, and host of the NEPR podcast *In Contrast*. His most recent books are *On Self-Translation: Reflections on Language* and a graphic-novel adaptation of *Don Quixote of La Mancha*.

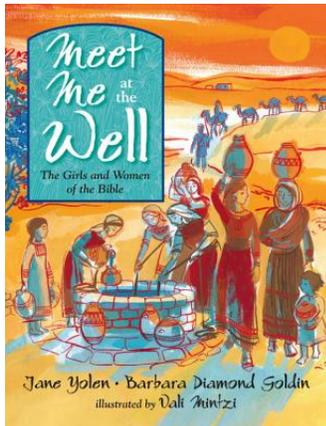
Registration required. A minimum of twelve participants is needed for the course to run. Suggested contribution: \$54

*No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your monetary contribution.*

## Meet Me at the Well: The Girls and Women of the Bible

book reading with authors Jane Yolen and Barbara Diamond Goldin

Sunday, October 14 • 11:00 am – 12:30 pm



Both Jane Yolen and Barbara Diamond Goldin have long histories of writing Jewish (and other) books. *Meet Me at the Well* is their first co-authored project: a 21st-century feminist midrash about the girls and women of the Bible, for middle-grade readers on up. The book teases out the women's stories from behind the men's and explores them in prose and poetry. The authors will talk about the difficulties and joys of writing the book, and discuss their favorite stories: the well-known—Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Naomi and Ruth, Miriam, Esther, Deborah—and the lesser-known—Zipporah, Jael, and others.

**Jane Yolen** ([www.janeyolen.com](http://www.janeyolen.com)), often called “the Hans Christian Andersen of America,” is celebrating the publication of her 365th book in 2018. Her works range from rhymed picture books for the very young to novels for adults, and have won two Nebulas, a World Fantasy Award, a Caldecott, the Golden Kite, three Mythopoeic awards, two Christopher medals, the Jewish Book Award, the Kerlan Award, and the Catholic Library's Regina Medal. Jane has received honorary doctorates from six colleges and universities.



**Barbara Diamond Goldin** ([www.barbaradiamondgoldin.com](http://www.barbaradiamondgoldin.com)) is the author of many picture books and story collections, including *Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale*, *The World's Birthday: A Story about Rosh Hashanah*, and *The Passover Cowboy*. She received the prestigious Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award in 1997 from the Association of Jewish Libraries. A former teacher and children's librarian, Barbara is now the director of The Edwards Public Library in Southampton.

This event is co-sponsored by the JCA Youth and Family Education Committee. No registration needed.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

# Prayerbook Hebrew Literacy

*Janis Levy*

Mondays • October 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19, 26; December 3  
with optional additional classes on December 10 and 17

7:00 – 8:30 pm



The purpose of this class is to help people become more comfortable in services and at times of prayer, and to encourage participation without judgment. It acknowledges that many adults, for different reasons, feel excluded because they cannot read Hebrew well enough to chant or sing prayers in the sanctuary or at home—unless they have learned them by rote.

Many adults believe that it is too late or too difficult to learn to read Hebrew. That is not so. In this class you will gain confidence in speaking Hebrew words aloud, and although comprehension is not specifically a goal, you will acquire a greater understanding of what you are saying. It is an opportunity for those with limited or no childhood Jewish education to study prayer book Hebrew with a structure, development and motivational approach specifically developed for the mature learner by a rabbi who devoted his life's work to adult education.

**Janis Levy** has been a member of the JCA since 2011, and currently serves on the board and helps to coordinate communications for the community. Prior to that time, along with other volunteer work, she was involved in leading services and teaching in the Jewish community in Northampton. And, for almost ten years, she worked with a former rabbi there to launch and teach follow-up classes for a major Adult Hebrew Literacy program. She looks forward to participating now in this project at the JCA.



Registration required. A minimum of six participants is needed  
for the course to run. Suggested contribution: \$36

*No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your monetary contribution.*

## Israeli Dancing

*Randi Stein*

Tuesdays • October 23, 30; November 13, 20

7:00 – 8:30 pm



Come and learn the pleasures of Israeli folk dance!

This is a four-session workshop. Attend the first session for an introduction to the basic patterns and see how easy and fun folk dancing can be.

We will meet in Randi's home studio. Please contact Randi ([randistein@earthlink.net](mailto:randistein@earthlink.net)) for directions.

**Randi Stein** learned to dance with Fred Berk in the sixties and continued dancing with a troupe at Brandeis University, and then in Israel where she lived on a kibbutz in 1974-79.



Registration required.

A minimum of six participants is needed to begin;  
the maximum number of participants is eight.

Suggested contribution: \$36

*No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your monetary contribution.*

## Contemporary Israeli Film Series

Sundays • 2 pm

October 21

### *The Band's Visit*

dir. Eran Kolirin, 2007  
87 minutes; rated PG-13

The film that was adapted into an award-winning Broadway musical! A band comprised of members of the Egyptian police force head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong town.



— with an introduction by **Adi Gordon**,  
Assistant Professor of History at Amherst College.



December 9

### *Zero Motivation*

dir. Talya Lavie, 2014  
97 minutes; unrated

A unit of female Israeli soldiers at a remote desert base bide their time as they count down the minutes until they can return to civilian life.

— with an introduction by **Jesse Ferris**,  
Vice President of Strategy at the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem.

Israeli refreshments provided at both screenings, courtesy of Project Rehovot.  
This event is co-sponsored by the JCA World Jewish Concerns Committee.

No registration needed.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center  
as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

## Greatest Hits of the Talmud

*Rabbi Devorah Jacobson*

Wednesdays • October 31; November 7, 14, 28; December 5, 12  
6:30 – 7:45 pm



End your day with a taste of Talmud! In this class, we will encounter some of the most fascinating discussions of the ancient sages as recorded on various pages of the Babylonian Talmud. Join us in exploring these different “gems” of the Talmud and attempting to wrestle with their meanings in their time and in our own. This class is for beginners and beyond, seekers, and lovers of Jewish learning!

**Rabbi Devorah Jacobson** has been Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at JGS Lifecare in Longmeadow since 2001. She has served on the faculty of Melton Adult Jewish Education Programs in Springfield and Florence for over ten years. In 2016, she was named one of America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis by *The Forward* and lauded for her work in helping seniors and their families spiritually during difficult transitions of aging.



Registration required.

A course fee of \$90 per student has been set by the instructor.  
A minimum of ten participants is needed for the course to run.

## Creating a Jewish Home

*discussion series facilitated by Melanie Lewis*

Sundays • November 4, December 9

10:45 – 11:45 am

What makes a house a Jewish home? Beyond hanging a mezuzah and eating Jewish foods, infusing our home life with Jewish values and rituals helps create and solidify Jewish identities for ourselves and our children. Yet the intense rhythm of our daily lives in a secular world can make reaching these goals a monumental challenge. Join Melanie Lewis, Rabbi Weiner, and others for a series of discussion sessions focused on strategies for creating a Jewish home. Parents and grandparents can share their experiences with each other while also having the benefit of expert advice along the way.



We will discuss ways to make sure we are passing on Jewish values, encouraging our children to engage in Jewish life and reflection, keeping the communication open for questioning and learning, and creating rituals that are meaningful and spiritually-elevating. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas we are bombarded with messages about the importance of family togetherness, gift-giving, and the spirit of the holidays. We have an opportunity to assert our Jewish identity as well as help our kids deal with the often-overwhelming and materialistic tidings of the season. How can we infuse these messages with Jewish values as we pass them on to our children? The two-event fall series focusing on the holidays will continue in the spring, with a special session on making Shabbat a special and meaningful experience for every family.

**Melanie Lewis**, a retired Licensed Psychologist, moved to the Pioneer Valley with her husband Jonathan to be closer to their adult children. Though Melanie has no formal Jewish education, the Lewises worked hard to create a home filled with Jewish traditions and values. Melanie practiced psychology in Wilmington, Delaware, for over thirty years, working with adults and their families.

This series is co-sponsored by the JCA Youth and Family Education Committee. No registration needed.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

## **A Reason to Remember: Roth, Germany 1933-1942**

*Special tours of the exhibit with Deborah Roth-Howe*

Group visit I: Wednesday, November 7 • 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
for JCA Keshet parents and students only

Please note: A second tour,  
open to all members of the JCA community, is coming in Spring, 2019

We are pleased to present this rare opportunity to tour the permanent exhibit at the University of Massachusetts Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies with Deborah Roth-Howe, one of the exhibit's co-creators.

"A Reason to Remember" is based on Deborah's family history and tells the stories of the five Jewish families that resided in the small German village of Roth when Hitler came to power. The exhibit personally engages the viewers in the physical and emotional lives of the families as they struggle to understand their place in society and deal with the dissolution of their rights. The stunningly-detailed documentation, along with Deborah's insights and personal anecdotes, will provide a powerful, intimate, immersive experience. There will be time for questions and an update on the surprising and hopeful events that have transpired in the village over the past twenty years.



**Deborah Roth-Howe** is the daughter of Elsa and Herbert Roth, who fled Nazi Germany in 1938, a few months before Kristallnacht. She created this exhibit with her parents and Rabbi Robert Sternberg, formerly of the Springfield Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center.

This tour is co-sponsored by the JCA Youth and Family Education Committee. Registration is via JCA Keshet only.

## Orthodox Feminism

*A conversation with Rabbi Lila Kagedan*

Sunday, December 2 • 1 – 3 pm

Rabbi Lila Kagedan is the first Orthodox woman to adopt the title of rabbi, having received her ordination in 2015 from Yeshivat Maharat, the Orthodox women's religious training program in Riverdale, NY, founded by Rabbi Avi Weiss. She deliberately chose the traditional title over the coinage "rabba," the recent term-of-art applied to Orthodox women in rabbinic roles. We are honored to welcome her to the JCA for a public conversation with Rabbi Weiner, in which they will discuss her professional and spiritual journey, the achievements and challenges of her trailblazing path, changes and variations in the roles for women in modern Jewish orthodoxy, and other aspects of her remarkably diverse and accomplished work.

**Rabbi Lila Kagedan** is a dual Canadian and American citizen, and holds degrees and certificates from Midreshet Lindenbaum, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Toronto, Harvard University, the Medstar Washington Hospital Center and Massachusetts General Hospital and is a Shalom Hartman Institute RLI fellow. She is also a Hadassah Brandeis Institute-Gender, Culture, Religion and Law Research Associate. After ordination in early 2016 she assumed a post at the New Jersey Orthodox synagogue Mount Freedom Jewish Center. She is now the senior rabbi at the Walnut Street Synagogue in Chelsea, Massachusetts. She is also the founder of the Sulam School in Brookline. Rabbi Kagedan is an instructor of bioethics at New York Medical College and is a clinical ethicist as well as a chaplain in hospitals and hospices. She is currently studying for a Yadin Yadin smicha.



No registration needed.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center  
as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

## ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION • FALL 2018

We strongly encourage you to REGISTER ONLINE at  
<http://bit.ly/jca1819Faec>

To make your payment online, via PayPal or credit card, go to our website at  
<https://jcamherst.org/payments-and-donations/payments>  
 and choose Adult Education Class from the menu of payment options.

If you prefer to pay by check, please complete this Registration Form and send to the JCA office with your check made out to the JCA and “Adult Ed” in the memo line.

Participants' names and email addresses  (please print)	Indicate programs for which you are registering				Contri- bution amount
	<u><i>Sephardic Civilization</i></u> 3 lectures \$54	<u><i>Israeli Dancing</i></u> 3 meetings \$36	<u><i>Prayerbook Hebrew</i></u> 8 sessions \$36	<u><i>Hits of the Talmud</i></u> 6 sessions \$90	
Name 1: ----- Email 1:					
Name 2: ----- Email 2:					
Name 3: ----- Email 3:					
Name 4: ----- Email 4:					
<i>No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your contribution.</i>	Subtotal				
	Additional contribution				
	<b>TOTAL</b>				

For inquiries about **registration** email [adulthoodprog@comcast.net](mailto:adulthoodprog@comcast.net)  
 For inquiries about **programs** email [barbruth@comcast.net](mailto:barbruth@comcast.net)  
 Please put the name of the program in the email subject line.