In memory of Ralph I. Goldman

We dedicate the Global Day of Jewish Learning to the memory of Ralph I Goldman, z’l.

There was only one title that Ralph Goldman claimed for himself: “civil servant of the Jewish people.” During his 100 years of life, Ralph both served and led the Jewish people, most notably at the helm of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. More than almost anyone, he helped steer the course of 20th century Jewry.

Ralph worked under Teddy Kollek, (later the legendary Mayor of united Jerusalem) as a purveyor of ships, arms and goods during the War of Independence. He then served David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first Prime Minister, in securing American support for the newly-created Jewish State.

In later years, Ralph raised the funds to establish Israel’s high school system and its community centers. He promoted Israeli artists, writers and musicians. His wisdom and foresight—and his many communal connections—were key in establishing the Israel Museum. As the leader of the Joint, he created channels for Soviet Jews to emigrate and helped to lead the exodus of Ethiopian Jewry. Under Ralph’s aegis, the Joint expanded its work in Israel, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Ralph adored the Jewish people—and profoundly loved its heritage. Steeped in the Bible, he would quote its verses in conversation. He opened cultural centers in the former Soviet Union. At a critical moment for the monumental endeavor of the Steinsaltz Hebrew Talmud—when a funding shortage threatened the entire enterprise—Ralph understood the enormous importance of this asset of Jewish culture and persuaded the JDC’s leadership to step in and make it accessible to every Jew.

We will always miss—we can never replace—Ralph’s shock of white hair, his dapper bow ties and his huge, huge grin. But as we name the Global Day of Jewish Learning in his memory, we are inspired by his life and lifted by his legacy.
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The Torah has a taste for everyone. Everyone, no matter their level of learning, can interact with the Torah.

—Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2017

For the eighth consecutive year, the Global Day of Jewish Learning will reach every corner of the Jewish world and bring Jews of all beliefs and backgrounds together in a day of study and unity. Thank you for putting your community on the map!

NOVEMBER 12, 2017—A DAY OF LEARNING FOR ALL JEWS

On November 12th, Jews across the world will come together in their communities to study Jewish texts and teachings. The guiding values of the Global Day of Jewish Learning are: fostering Jewish unity, empowering individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and creating meaningful shared experiences. Our interest is to spark and nourish a love for Jewish learning - and to celebrate the unity that Jewish learning can achieve.

The Global Day is for all Jews regardless of educational background and religious affiliation. The classes are created for all audiences; no prior knowledge of Hebrew or Jewish text is necessary in order to participate.

The 2017 theme is Beauty and Ugliness. Each curricular unit will explore a different aspect of this theme and include discussion of a variety of Jewish texts.

HISTORY

A project of the Aleph Society, the Global Day was originally created as a one-time event to mark the completion of Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz’s monumental translation of and commentary on the Talmud. However, survey results spoke of a communal desire to continue Rabbi Steinsaltz’s mission — “Let My People Know” — through an annual Global Day of Jewish Learning. In 2016, some 500 communities participated!

IN PARTNERSHIP

The Global Day is spearheaded by the Aleph Society. Organizing Partners include the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Hillel International, the Jewish Federations of North America, and Shefa Institute. Active Jewish Teens (AJT), Partnership2Gether: The Jewish Agency Peoplehood Platform, Project Kesher, and See the Light are Community Partners. Additionally, over 30 supporting partner organizations, representing a broad spectrum of Jewry, encourage their members to organize or attend local events.
RABBI ADIN STEINSALTZ

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is internationally regarded as one of the leading scholars and rabbis of this century, and of the last. As described in Newsweek, “Jewish lore is filled with tales of formidable rabbis. Probably none living today can compare in genius and influence to Adin Steinsaltz, whose extraordinary gifts as scholar, teacher, scientist, writer, mystic and social critic have attracted disciples from all factions of Israeli society.”

Born in 1937 to a secular family, Rabbi Steinsaltz has authored more than 60 books and hundreds of articles on Jewish mysticism, religious thought, sociology, biography, and philosophy. The best known of these is his interpretation of the Talmud, the seminal work of Jewish culture. His *The Thirteen Petalled Rose* is considered a modern classic of Jewish mysticism.

He is the first person since the medieval sage Rashi to have completed a full translation of and commentary on the Babylonian Talmud. This historic achievement was commemorated in 2010 by the inaugural Global Day of Jewish Learning, which has since become an annual international event in over 40 countries.

Koren Publishers Jerusalem has recently launched the *Koren Talmud Bavli*, an English edition of the Steinsaltz Hebrew Talmud. The debut volumes garnered a 2012 National Jewish Book Award.

Other honors include Israel's inaugural Israeli Presidential Award of Distinction, the Israel Prize and the French Order of Arts and Literature. Renowned as an original and open-minded thinker, Rabbi Steinsaltz has lectured and taught in hundreds of communities around the world.
CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS—Beauty and Ugliness

Torah is the shared inheritance of all the Jewish people.
—Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz

The Global Day of Jewish Learning is a day of world-wide encounters with Jewish ideas and sacred texts. The Global Day of Jewish Learning reaches every corner of the Jewish world and brings Jews of all beliefs and backgrounds together in a day of study and unity.

This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning will focus on Beauty and Ugliness. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz has explained:

> Each one of the various kinds of good — the aesthetic, the functional, and the moral — has a different set of rules with its own compelling inner logic, and unfortunately, the categories are not interconnected. Thus, beauty can be morally wrong, impractical, or even dangerous. Most poisonous mushrooms, for instance, are much more beautiful than the edible ones. Conversely, something that violates the laws of aesthetics is not necessarily immoral: an ugly person can be deeply righteous.

—“Good”, Simple Words by Rabbi Steinsaltz

The Global Day curriculum will explore different aspects of the theme, offering source materials and questions for conversation. Facilitators will want to adapt these materials to suit the educational background and interests of their groups. Far from being frontal lectures, the Guide’s classes are meant to spark thought-provoking conversations. In keeping with Rabbi Steinsaltz’s diverse works, we will be drawing from a variety of primary texts and other sources. This year there will be six curricular units for adult learners and one each for elementary and middle school students.

We will ask questions like: Is being beautiful a requirement to achieve positions of power? How can you beautify an action? Is there value in appreciating both the vessel and what it “contains”?

The curriculum will be available in English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and German. Again, PJ Library will join us to offer a resource for family programming; this will be based on books that address an aspect of this year’s theme and will be available in English. Curriculum materials will be available in the summer.
GLOBAL DAY COMMUNITY COMMITMENT & REGISTRATION

The goal of the Global Day of Jewish Learning is to enable all Jews to engage with our Jewish texts. Rabbi Steinsaltz began this process close to fifty years ago through his translation and commentary on the Talmud. We continue it today in our communities by learning our Jewish texts together on the Global Day of Jewish Learning and throughout the year.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING?

Communities small and large mark one day on their calendar when differences can be left at the door and communities can come together to learn our shared Jewish texts. The Global Day is a non-threatening event where individuals have the ability to engage in Jewish learning—regardless of background or Jewish knowledge. On November 12th, 2017—the Jewish people will take some time out of their day to engage with the texts that unite us.

GLOBAL DAY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For the Global Day of Jewish Learning we encourage communities to:

- Create community-wide learning experiences by involving local JCCs, synagogues, federations, Hillels and schools;
- Stage Global Day events in a communal environment;
- Engage teachers and facilitators of various backgrounds and denominations;
- Involve different partners and collaborators in the planning process;
- Participate no matter the size or form of your community!

TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL GLOBAL DAY EVENT SITE

Your community must register online at www.theglobalday.org and follow the “Register for 2017!” link. Following registration, you will receive a user name and password that will allow you to access the online toolbox which will contain the curricular materials, template marketing and PR material, as well as other tools to help you plan a successful day.
Key Questions to Help You Plan Your Event

You may want to begin by creating a team of community professionals, lay leaders, rabbis and educators. This team can assist in beginning discussion about the Global Day in your community. The questions provided here can help guide your planning and focus your discussions.

- What are our goals for the Global Day of Jewish Learning? Will we use this to launch, strengthen or conceptualize other Jewish study initiatives within our community? Can it initiate or strengthen bonds among local organizations?
- Who is our target audience? What is our target number of participants?
- Which organizations would serve as viable partners to further these goals and objectives?
- What resources, experience and strengths can each of our partners offer?
- Do our community partners have the facilities to host our event? Will we need more than one host location?
- What will the schedule for our community’s Global Day entail? What model would work best for our community?
- What does our budget look like? What are our sources of funding?
- Will a lay committee help further our goals?
- What role can volunteers play in planning, preparation and execution?
- Which community professionals, educators and lay leaders can help plan and execute the event? Do we need to bring in outside educators?
- How will we register participants for our event (phone, email or web)?
- How will we market our event? What will work best for our community—press releases, ads in the local papers, emails, flyers, mailings, announcements, social media?
- How will we know we have been successful? What criteria will we use to judge success?
- How will we capitalize on the experience of the Global Day? What will be our follow-up? Will we have an evaluation?
- What assistance will we need from the Global Day office in order to help support our community initiative? Guidance via meeting and phone calls, connecting to other communities, etc?

If you have any further questions, please contact us at 212-840-1166 or info@theglobalday.org.
Since every Global Day of Jewish Learning event and every community’s resources will differ, it is impossible for us to provide “standard” estimated event costs. Below are some expenses that you might consider for your Global Day event.

**NOTE:** There is no cost to register for the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

**EXPENSES TO CONSIDER:**

- Reproduction of curricular material and program brochures
- Venue
- Food at the event (you may choose to provide snacks or meals—depending on your schedule—for purchase, or include the cost in your event registration)
- Audio visual equipment
- Advertising and marketing
- Keynote speaker honorarium
PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DAY

For some, the Global Day will be a first-time learning experience; for others who learn regularly, this may be their first opportunity to learn in a large group setting. For still others, communal learning may be a regular practice and it will be the international achdut, or unifying aspect, that provides meaning. The structure of your event will depend on audience, resources and local interests. Included in the following pages are a number of sample event schedules from communities which participated in prior years.

MODELS

There are three main models that we recommend for the Global Day of Jewish Learning (communities might choose one or a combination of two or three models):

- **ROUND-ROBIN**: Each session features several simultaneous classes on a specific theme. Teachers may repeat classes during subsequent sessions as participants switch classes.
- **BEIT MIDRASH**: The beit midrash model is a good choice if you envision your entire community learning together in the same room.
- **TOPIC FOCUSED**: Your day will focus on one of the provided themes and your classes or a keynote speaker would focus on that theme.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Regardless of the model you choose, keep in mind these resources that be be included in your event:

- Curricular materials based on the theme: Beauty and Ugliness
- Texts and discussion questions available throughout the year at theglobalday.org/anytime
- Live online video learning through Global Day ON Air. The video series features luminaries of Jewish learning broadcasting live, in the months leading up to the Global Day and culminating with a worldwide celebration of learning.
SAMPLES FROM GLOBAL DAY 2010–2016

EVENT SCHEDULES
- Amstelveen, Netherlands (2014)
- Beer Sheva, Israel (2013)
- Brazil (2010)
- Cape Town, South Africa (2015)
- Charlotte, North Carolina (2016)
- Eugene, Oregon (2012)
- Greensboro, North Carolina (2013)
- Kishinev, Moldova (2014)
- Nashville, Tennessee (2016)
- Paris, France (2014)
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2012)
- Rome, Italy (2015)
- Saint Petersburg, Russia (2014)
- Sacramento, California (2016)
- Winnipeg, Canada (2013)

COMMUNITY REPORTS
- Cape Town, South Africa (2013)
- Davie, Florida (2015)
- Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine (2014)
- Howard County, Maryland (2014)
- Kiryat Malachi, Israel (2013)
- Knoxville, Tennessee (2013)
- Nashville, Tennessee (2016)
- Nikolaev, Ukraine (2013)
- Saint Petersburg, Russia (2014)
- Shanghai, China (2011)
- Trancoso, Portugal (2013)
- Tzfat, Israel (2012)

ARTICLES
- The Jewish Week, “The Longest Translation” (2010)
- The Jewish Week, “The Importance of a Global Day of Jewish Learning” (2014)
- Times of Israel, “Old-school educators go hi-tech to promote Torah accessibility” (2014)
- The Jewish Exponent, “Jewish education—on a global scale” (2015)
Global Day of Jewish Learning
WERELDWIJDE STUDIEDAG

Thema: Helden, schurken, heiligen en gekken: het volk van het boek

zondag 16 november 2014
13.00-18.00 uur
prijs € 35,- incl. kosjere maaltijd
studenten: € 25

Samen leren, wereldwijd
Contact met studiegroepen over de hele wereld via live stream

e-mail info@crescas.nl
telefoon 020-640.23.80
informatie www.crescas.nl
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somכ'ג-כ-2800 נטרים
DOMINGO, 7/11

DIA MUNDIAL DE ESTUDO JUDAICO

NESTE DIA, CENTENAS DE COMUNIDADES EM TODO O MUNDO ESTARÃO CELEBRANDO, JUNTO COM O RABINO ADIN STEINSALTZ (EVEN-ISRAEL), A CONCLUSÃO DE SUA OBRA MONUMENTAL, INICIADA HÁ 45 ANOS:
UMA EDIÇÃO MODERNA E ATUALIZADA DE TODO O TALMUD.

PROGRAMAÇÃO:

17h  Abertura: Mensagem do rabino Adin Steinsaltz (Even-Israel)
17h15 O que é o Talmud? Sua história e seus comentaristas
     com rabino Efraim Shechter
17h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi
18h  O Talmud na Vida Nossa de Cada Dia
     com o Prof. Dr. Jacob Dolinger
18h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi
19h  A Cabala do Talmud
     com rabino Avraham Tsvi Beuthner
19h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi
20h  O Talmud e a preservação do meio-ambiente
     com Dr. Israel Klabin

EVENTO PARA HOMENS E MULHERES

HAVERÁ RECREAÇÃO PARA AS CRIANÇAS

Data: Domingo, 7/11 Local: Beit Lubavitch
R. Gal. Venâncio Flores, 221 Leblon - Entrada Franca!
Report- Día Mundial de Estudios judaicos de mujeres –Buenos Aires Argentina NOV17-2013 (In Spanish and in English)

El domingo 17 de noviembre se realizó en Buenos Aires el Día Mundial de Estudios Judáicos para mujeres en el Centro Ana Frank Argentina. El clima de estudio y de espiritualidad que se fue generando en el transcurso de la jornada hizo que la Torá, la creatividad, la tefilí y la amistad fueran los pilares de un hacer colectivo. El Rabino Adin Even Israel Steinsaltz, mentor de esta propuesta mundial disertó por medio de una video conferencia. Los talleres fueron dirigidos por la Dra. Diana Sperling (Filosofía), la Lic. Fany Gerson (Educación Judía), la Rabina Graciela Grynberg y la Rabina Judy Nowominski. La Arq. Edit Shmukler y Edith Krasnob colaboraron en el proyecto. Mujeres con diferentes ideologías e instituciones se reunieron para estudiar Torá y disfrutar del estar en comunidad y aprender de las diferencias y de la diversidad. El desafío para el próximo año podría ser, B”H organizar grupos de 70 personas cada uno – en referencia al principio “70 rostros tiene la Torá”.

Ver los datos del reportaje realizado por RADIO JAI el 19/11/2013 a Fany Berta Gerson quien lideró el diseño y el desarrollo del proyecto comunitario “Día de Estudios Judáicos 2013 para mujeres” como una experiencia piloto y participativa. Los resultados y el impacto fueron muy positivos.
Agradecemos la oportunidad de haber podido ser parte de una comunidad de aprendizaje.

On Sunday Nov.17, the Global Day of Jewish Learning for Women took place in the “Argentina Ana Frank Center” in Buenos Aires.
Along the day, a learning and spiritual atmosphere was arising among the participants. The Torá, the creativity, the tefilí and the friendship were the pillars of a collective construction. Rabbi Adin Even Israel Steinsaltz, mentor of this global proposal lectured through a video conference. The workshops were led by Dr. Diana Sperling (Philosophy), Ms Fany Gerson (Jewish education), Rabbi Ms Graciela Grynberg and Rabbi Ms. Judy Nowominski. Arch. Edit Shmukler and Ms. Edith Krasnob cooperated with the project. Women from different ideologies and institutions got together to study the Torá and enjoyed being in community and learning from the differences and the diversity. The challenge for next year could be, B”H, to make groups of 70 people each one - in reference to the principle “shimim panim la Torá” – 70 faces to the Torá.

The radio interview report that took place on 19/11/2013 in RADIO JAI BUENOS AIRES was about our global day and about Rabbi Adin Even Steinsaltz’s work. Please, go to the following link to listen to it – (it’s in Spanish)


I led the planning and the development processes of the educational and the community project “Día Mundial de Estudios Judáicos de mujeres”2013- Buenos Aires -as a pilot and a participative experience. The results and the impact were very positive.
Thank you for giving us the opportunity of taking part of a large learning community.

Fany Berta Gerson

Educational community project planner and managing director
GRADUATION CEREMONY - MIDRASHA AND MELTON
IN CONJUNCTION WITH:
THE GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

Celebrating 10 Years Of Jewish Learning In Cape Town

Sunday 15 November: 6-8 pm: Cafe Riteve

This invite extends to all Melton & Midrasha 2015
students across all courses,
your partners on your Jewish Journey
and friends/family who you think may be interested in Melton
to attend a “Night of Learning”

Looking forward to your participation:

Viv Anstey
Director, Melton Team & Midrasha Board

Please RSVP by Fri 6 NOVEMBER inc.
Lauren sokker: 082-8302127 lauren.sokker@gmail.com
R50 donation would be greatly appreciated at the door

Please join us for “A NIGHT OF LEARNING”, Melton Text Style, on “Love,
Brokohn, Kehbon & Senseble”
With Melton locla & Midrasha guest teachers

MELTON METHODOLOGY enables you to
KNOW JUDAISM

Viv visanot@justrica.com OR Lauren Isitchen@Africa.com
www.meltonschool.org
GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
SHALOM PARK

UNDER THE SAME SKY: The Earth is Full of Your Creations

8:15 - 9:30 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 - 9:30 MINTAN (Mixed and separate seating available)

9:45 - 10:45 CHOICES

- Shmitat and Yovel: Treating Nature as a Model for How to Treat Human Beings (Rabbi Murray Ering) - ED. A
- Echad: One with Nature and the Nature of God (Rabbi Asher Knight) - ED. A
- The Jewish Approach to Immigration: Whom Shall We Welcome? (Rabbi Yossi Groner) - ED. A
- Birds of Israel: Learn About Moshe Cohen’s Colorful Photography and Create a Visual Art Project Inspired by These Beautiful and Unique Creatures (Shelah Global Order) - CA. K
- Environmentalism in Action: Nature Suncatchers, Green Cleaning, Brit Tева Tree and Trash to Treasure (Shalom Green) - CA. C
- Be Kind to Animals: Pelting Zoo, Craft and Story Time (PJ Library and Ms. Debbie) - CA. F

11:00 - 12:00 CHOICES

- Ruler, Steward, Servant: What Should Our Relationship with Nature Be? (Rabbi Tracy Kilts) - ED. A
- N’Choral Y’mcha’s Chat: The Rivers Clap Hands: Images of Nature’s Majesty in Jewish Liturgy (Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas) - ED. A
- The Gun Control Debate According to Jewish Teachings (Rabbi Yossi Groner) - ED. A
- Come Try Israeli dancing “Earth and Sky” Adama V’Shamayim - CA. C
- Environmentalism in Action: Nature Suncatchers, Green Cleaning, Brit Tева Tree and Trash to Treasure (Shalom Green) - CA. C
- Be Kind to Animals: Pelting Zoo, Craft and Story Time (PJ Library and Ms. Debbie) - CA. F

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH AND MUSIC BY VIVA KLEZMER

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE. REGISTRATION REQUESTED. REGISTER HERE

Babysitting is available. Advance registration is required by November 10. Please contact the LICC Customer Service desk, 704-366-9007.

Key:
- ED = Educational Discussion
- CA = Cultural Activity
- Key for Audience:
  - A = Adults
  - F = Parents & Young Children
  - K = Parents & School Age Children
  - C = Community/Family Friendly

Charlotte, North Carolina
Global Day of Jewish Learning

A day of world-wide encounters with Jewish ideas and sacred texts. Prepare to be inspired.

TBI is excited to participate in the 3rd annual Global Day of Jewish Learning, a community-based learning experience, this year focusing on the theme of Jewish Concepts of Blessings & Gratitude.

All events are free and open to the public. Donations to TBI’s Community Education Program gratefully accepted.

Choose a workshop from either or both sessions.

Help us plan appropriately by pre-registering. Click here to register online.

Learn more about Global Day at www.theglobalday.com.

Session 1: 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Exploring Blessings: A Look at Some of Our More Creative Blessings
with Rabbi Boris Dolin
Our sages believed that every unusual sight deserved its own blessing—it was their way of savoring the moment. Did you know that when you hear thunder or see a beautiful view, traditional Judaism offers up different blessings to say? This unit helps us to appreciate how blessings can help us to slow down and appreciate the world around us.

Gratitude and Birkat HaMazon (Grace after Meals)
with Joan Bayless
Most cultures are thankful before the meal. Judaism emphasizes the blessings that we say when our plates are cleared. This unit centers on Birkat HaMazon, and explores the value of expressing gratitude both for the gift and to the giver of the gift.

Break: 10:45 am - 11:15 am

Sisterhood Sunday Café
Enjoy baked goodies, coffee, tea (available for purchase) and a Global Day Video.

Session 2: 11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Finding God, Finding Gratitude: How to Appreciate our Everyday Lives
with Rabbi Yitzhak Hubsch-Hankin
What are you grateful for in your life? What is the connection between gratitude and prayer? Through shared text study, this unit explores the idea that it is gratitude that connects us to ourselves, our community and God.

Mixed Blessings: Maimonides’ Radical Beliefs and the Questions Facing Modern Liberal Judaism
with Rabbi Maurice Harris
The medieval sage, Maimonides, upended some of the major theological beliefs of the ancient rabbis. Some of his most radical ideas helped open the doors for modern Jews to develop major innovations in Jewish belief and practice. In this session we’ll study an important passage in his famous philosophical work, The Guide of the Perplexed, and explore the mixed blessings of Maimonides’ concept of how Judaism evolves.

Gratitude: Beginning and Ending Each Day with Thanks
with Sarah Dolin
Explore concepts of gratitude and thankfulness through Jewish children’s literature, music and art. Families will have the opportunity to create meaningful morning and bedtime rituals for the youngest members of the family. For children ages 0-3 and their families.

All events are free and open to the public. Donations to TBI’s Community Education Program gratefully accepted.

Please pre-register; click here to register online.
The Global Day of Jewish Learning 2013
A great way to study with scholars and Rabbis from across Greensboro’s Jewish spectrum

Sunday, November 17, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
Temple Emanuel, 1129 Jefferson Road

Schedule of Learning Opportunities:
10:00am - Opening Blessing for all - Main Sanctuary

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<th>Time</th>
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| 10:10-11:00am | “Creating Friendship: Acquire for Yourself a Friend”  
Rabbi Eli Havivi,  
Beth David Synagogue  
1st Floor Youth Lounge |
|            | “Creating Shabbat: Rest as a Creative Act”  
Rabbi Drorah Setel,  
Reform Rabbi at AHA  
Room 211 |
|            | “Creating Connections: The World of the Vav”  
Rabbi TZiPi Radonsky,  
The Society of the Vav  
Room 101 |

11:00am-11:10am – BREAK
Refreshments will be available in the Lobby. All proceeds benefit the Temple’s teen service learning trips to New Orleans and Washington D.C.

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| 11:10am-12:00noon | “Creation and Creativity”  
Rabbi Fred Guttman,  
Temple Emanuel  
1st Floor Youth Lounge |
|            | “Creating Community around the Study of Texts”  
Rabbi Andy Koren,  
Temple Emanuel  
Room 211 |
|            | “Creativity and Torah Study”  
Amanda Mbuvi,  
writer and scholar  
Room 101 |

Temple’s regular Sunday morning adult classes are also open for participation:

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<tr>
<td>Living</td>
<td>10:00am-12:00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Siegel, B’nai Shalom Day School</td>
<td>American Hebrew Academy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This program is a joint effort of Beth David Synagogue and Temple Emanuel. Greensboro is one of 400 communities worldwide taking part in this year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning. This year’s theme is Creating Together: Jewish Approaches to Creativity and Collaboration. The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings the Jewish people together once a year to celebrate our shared Jewish text through community based learning.
20 ноября 2016
10:00 - начало регистрации

Наш адрес: ул. Е. Дога 5, КЕДЕМ
022-509-646 / 022-509-669 / 069020369

Тема Global Day 2016:
Под тем же самым небом:
“Земля наполнена Твоими творениями”

Вход строго по пригласительному
Think Globally. Learn Locally.

Register online at www.jewishnashville.org/global-day

Global Day of Jewish Learning

Schedule:
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Arrival, Registration and Opening Learning Session with Pardes Scholar Rabba Yaffa Epstein

10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
PJLibrary Program (Parents can attend Opening Learning Session at the same time!)

11:20 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Jewish Learning Breakout Sessions with local clergy and Jewish Community professionals

12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Lunch and Learn with Rabba Yaffa Epstein

1:20 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
NEW THIS YEAR: "TEXT Talks" Short presentations by local scholars, educators and Special Guests!

1:20 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Special In-Service Session for Jewish Educators with Rabba Yaffa Epstein

2:20 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Also new this year: "MEET THE REBS" Rabbis Round Table Discussion

Theme: Under the Same Sky: “The Earth is Full of Your Creations”

Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016

Cost: Morning Sessions Only — Free of Charge (no Lunch)  
All Day Participation — $5.00 Includes Lunch  
Lunch and Afternoon Sessions — $10.00 for Lunch

Location: West End Synagogue  
(Baby-sitting available upon request)

To register for the Global Day of Jewish Learning, please contact Barbara Schwarcz at (615) 354-1630 or Barbara@jewishnashville.org, or visit www.jewishnashville.org.

Presented by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee in cooperation with: Akiva School, B’hai B’rith Social Unit, B’hai B’rith Maimonides Lodge #46, BBYO, Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Congregation Beth Tefillah Chabad, Congregation Micah and the Micah Children’s Academy, Congregation Sherith Israel, Get Connected, Gordon Jewish Community Center and the GJCC Early Childhood Learning Center, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, Jewish Family Service, NCJW Nashville Chapter, NowGen Nashville, PJ Library, The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom and The Temple Preschool, Vanderbilt Hillel, and West End Synagogue.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning in Nashville is generously underwritten by Libby and Moshe Werthan to support the participation of Rabba Yaffa Epstein of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning

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The Global Day of Jewish Learning in Nashville is generously underwritten by Libby and Moshe Werthan to support the participation of Rabba Yaffa Epstein of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.
The third Global Day of Jewish Learning will take place on Sunday, November 18th, hosted by Mechon Hadar and Drisha Institute. Last year, we had over 250 participants coming to learn with teachers representing almost 30 institutions from around New York City. The Global Day of Jewish Learning unites Jewish communities around the globe to celebrate our foundational Jewish texts through community based learning. The inaugural event celebrated the completion of the Steinsaltz Talmud and counted over 400 communities in 48 countries and on six continents – clear evidence of the importance that Jews everywhere place on the shared experience of study.

Recordings of sessions will be posted after the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

- [Schedule](#)
- [List of Co-Sponsors](#)

**Schedule:**
**Morning at Drisha Institute (37 West 65th Street, 5th floor)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 a.m.</th>
<th>11 a.m.</th>
<th>12 p.m.</th>
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</table>
| **Familial Blessings in Genesis**  
Rabbi David Silber  
*Lecture Hall* | **The Blessings on Food: A Halakhic-Theological Exploration**  
Rabbi Nathanial Helfgot  
*Lecture Hall* | **"When God Prays": A Literary Analysis of a Provocative Talmudic Story**  
Professor Michael Chernick  
*Lecture Hall* |
| **Our Avot: How Religiously Observant Were They?**  
Rabbi Stephen Friedman  
*Room 4* | **"And a Man Came Upon Him": Mystery Men in Genesis**  
Shuli Taubes  
*Room 4* | **The Power of Advocacy: Action That Leads To Study (That Leads To Action)**  
Ilan Kaplan  
*Room 4* |
| **Communicating Empathy in One Word: Amen**  
Jonah Gefen  
*Room 2* | **Grateful For and Grateful To: Some Philosophical Underpinnings of a Gratitude Infused Relationship**  
Joe Septimus  
*Room 2* | **God of Whose Fathers? Converts to Judaism and the Language of Prayer**  
Rachel Furst  
*Room 2* |
### Afternoon at Mechon Hadar (190 Amsterdam at 69th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 p.m.</th>
<th>3 p.m.</th>
<th>4 p.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ve'heyeh Bracha: Being Blessed; Becoming Blesser</td>
<td>Placing the Name on Israel: Theory and Practice of Birkat HaKohanim</td>
<td>Or Else! Lighting Shabbat Lamps and the Danger of Childbirth - A New Interpretation of Mishnah Shabbat 2:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi David Ingber</td>
<td>&quot;Priestly Blessing&quot;</td>
<td>Rabbi Judith Hauptman</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Blessings of Shifting From Positional Power to Shared Leadership</td>
<td>Hannah's Prayer: When Prayer Meets Activism</td>
<td>Blessings Remixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shifra Bronznick</td>
<td>Rabbi Aviva Richman</td>
<td>David Wolkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Can Contribute to a Jewish Renaissance</td>
<td>Rabbi William Plevan</td>
<td>Rabbi Scott Botton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi Ari Fridkis</td>
<td>Mindfully Cultivating Gratitude Through Tikun Middot</td>
<td>The Rock Whose Ways are Great; Blessing God in Times of Tragedy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Marc Margolis</td>
<td>Wendy Amsellem</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Co-sponsors include:**

Advancing Jewish Women Professionals  
American Jewish World Service  
Columbia/Barnard Hillel  
Congregation Anshe Chesed  
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun  
Congregation Da'at Elohim/Temple of Universal Judaism  
Congregation Ramath Orah  
Congregation Shaare Zeck  
Darkhei Noam  
Drisha Institute  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/New York School  
Jewish Theological Seminary  
LimmudNY  
Mechon Hadar  
NYU Hillel  
Ohel Ayalah  
Prospect Heights Shul  
Rabbis for Human Rights - North America  
Remezu  
Uri LTzedek  
West End Synagogue  
Yeshivat Chovevei Torah  
Yeshivat Maharat
Dimanche 16 novembre

3ᵉ journée mondiale de l'étude juive
24 heures d'étude non-stop à travers le monde
à suivre en direct sur Akadem et Youtube

- 300 communautés à travers le monde organisent des enseignements sur un même thème.
- Thème de l'étude cette année : Les gens du Livre: héros, méchants, saints et fous.
- L'événement se double d'un programme de 24h non stop d'étude en diffusion mondiale.
- Samedi 15 novembre minuit ➞ Dimanche 16 novembre minuit, 24 enseignants prennent le relais sur Youtube.
- Akadem représente la France et propose de suivre l'événement en direct sur son site.

⇒ Réagissez en direct sur Twitter ➞
Join the South Hills Jewish Community

Global Day of Jewish Learning
Sunday, November 16

2014 theme: Heroes and Villains, Saints and Fools: the People in the Book

10:15 a.m.
Beth El Congregation
1900 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, 15220 • (412) 561-1168
www.bethelcong.org
Israel Bonds Brunch with Avi Jorisch
Avi Jorisch is President and founder of the Red Cell Intelligence Group, a consulting and training firm specializing in national security issues relating to terrorism, illicit finance and radical Islam.
$18 couvert for the special program, which includes brunch. RSVP to 412-561-1168 by Nov. 12.

10:15 a.m.
Chabad of the South Hills
1701 McFarland Rd., Pittsburgh, 15216 • (412) 344-2424
www.chabadsh.com
“How Our Shortcomings Can Become Sources Of Joy”

10:15 a.m.
Temple Emanuel of South Hills
1250 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, 15243 • (412) 279-7600
www.templeemanuelpgh.org
“Deborah – Victory in the Hands of a Woman”
Presented by Temple Emanuel’s Beit HaMidrash, Adult Education Team. A Light Brunch will be served prior to the program, sponsored by Temple Emanuel Brotherhood.
RSVP to 412-279-7600 or E-mail to templeemanuel@templeemanuelpgh.org

10:30 a.m.
Beth Israel Center
115 Gill Hall Rd., Jefferson Hills, PA 15025 • (412) 655-2144
www.bethisraelpgh.org
“Deborah – Victory in the Hands of a Woman”
Moderated by Ken Regal of Just Harvest

7:00 p.m.
Congregation Ahavath Achim
(The Carnegie Shul)
500 Chestnut St., Carnegie, PA 15106 • (412) 279-1566
www.thecarnegieshul.org
“2014: The Year Of Living Dangerously In The Middle East”
Guest speaker Gregg Roman, Director of the Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, was recently featured in the news for his efforts to save the life of his friend, journalist Steven Sotloff, who was beheaded by ISIS.

All sessions open to the public

The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings Jewish people together for community-based learning, to foster Jewish unity, empower individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and create meaningful shared experiences. The South Hills Jewish Community will join with more than 400 Jewish communities from 40 countries around the world.

A program of the South Hills Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
#southhillsjewishpittsburgh

Questions? Email southhills@jfedpgh.org
GIORNATA DI STUDIO
Global day of Jewish Learning

Amore: Devozione, Desiderio, Illusione

DOMENICA 15 NOVEMBRE
dalle 9.30 alle 13.30
al Pitigliani

Interverranno:

Yarona Pinchas
"L'Amore è sempre bene? Esplorando l'amore ne La rosa dai
tredici petali di Rav Adin Steinsaltz"

Joseph Tachè
"Bilanciare amore ed obbedienza: lo strano caso
di Nadav ed Avihu"

Rav Ronnie Canarutto
"Amare D-o ed amare se stessi"

Evento promosso da New York
Per la prima volta a Roma
In simultanea in 40 paesi!

PER INFO E PRENOTAZIONI: 065897756-BAITBET@PITIGLIANI.IT
IL PITIGLIANI Via Arco de’ Tolomei, 1 Roma
# THE DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

**16 November 2014**

"Heroes, villains, wise men and fools — people of the Book"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>&quot;Daniel Shekhtman&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Shmuel Joseph-Agnon&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Yuval Neeman&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Robert Aumann&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Ana Yonat&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Amos Oz&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Kira Radinsky&quot;</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Charity Action</td>
<td>Theater &quot;Dolls&quot; play</td>
<td>Master-class of Great Choral Synagogue</td>
<td>Trivia game &quot;Medaber Ivrit&quot;</td>
<td>Dima Zitser</td>
<td>Olga Pushkareva</td>
<td>Sagi Rabovsky, Janna Yoffee</td>
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<td>book fair from &quot;Subscriptional Publishing&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;A ball of wool&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Making a personal kippa&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Medaber Ivrit&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Jumping king&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Heroes of Tel-Aviv streets&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Book-crossing of Jewish literature</td>
<td>Game zone GaGaGames</td>
<td>Natally &amp; Alex Kulikov</td>
<td>&quot;Zentangle &amp; doodling of Jewish names&quot;</td>
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<td>Interactive exhibition from Israel Culture Center</td>
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<td>EL Al Club</td>
<td>Simultaneous exhibition with chess grandmaster Mark Taimanov</td>
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<td>2:30-3:00 pm</td>
<td>Drawing of charitable lottery</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Charity Action</td>
<td>Concert &quot;Heart is a bird, I am flying...&quot;</td>
<td>Trivia game &quot;Medaber Ivrit&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Museum Madatek&quot;</td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy</td>
<td>Teens' Club &quot;Adain Lo&quot;</td>
<td>Debates in Hillel</td>
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<td>Book fair from &quot;Subscriptional Publishing&quot;</td>
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<td>5:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>&quot;Alla Neiman&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Here &amp; a fool: Inner harmony and outward face&quot;</td>
<td>Master-class &quot;New postcards&quot;</td>
<td>Game zone GaGaGames</td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy</td>
<td>&quot;What? Where? When?&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Project Head Trick&quot;</td>
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<td>EL Al Club</td>
<td>Semen Yakerson</td>
<td>Natally &amp; Alex Kulikov</td>
<td>&quot;Zentangle &amp; doodling of Jewish names&quot;</td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy</td>
<td>Youth club Tsameret</td>
<td>Questroom &quot;Day 2&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The great collector of Jewish books Abraham Firkovitch — a villain, a wise man or a hero&quot;</td>
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<td>7:10-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Drawing of charitable lottery</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-9:00 pm</td>
<td>Andrei Urgant Artist's evening</td>
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Global Day of Jewish Learning
Under The Same Sky "The Earth is Full of Your Creations"
Learning about our world and nature

Sunday, November 20, 2016

9:00am - Rabbi Reuven Taff - Plating For The Future
Examining the significance of planting within Jewish life.

10:00am - Rabbi Mordechai Gordon - The Shmita Year
Exploring this ancient and rare mitzvah of giving the land a Sabbath or sabbatical every 7th year.

11:00am - Rabbi Mendy Cohen - Bal Tashchit
The commandment of Bal Tashchit - do not destroy or waste - is central to Jewish environmental ethic.

KOHL Library and Cultural Center
2300 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825

Responding to Rabbi Steinsaltz’s mandate: "Let my people know"
Jews around the world come together in their communities, homes and online to celebrate our shared heritage by studying, learning and engaging with each other. People of all affiliations are welcome.

"The earth is full of Your creations” (Psalm 104:24) is one of the many references in Jewish texts to the beauty and vastness of our world and nature. The day is meant to imbue an appreciation for the texts that define us, and to inspire hope in the commonalities that unite us. The Global Day will remind us that, although we are dispersed around the globe, we shall always stand together. This program, developed in the spirit of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, is the largest, annual, worldwide community study of Jewish texts ever held and is dedicated to the life and legacy of Ralph I. Goldman z"l.

To learn more about the Global Day of Jewish Learning visit
www.theglobalday.org

Open to the entire community
A continental breakfast will be served
No program fee. Donations are greatly appreciated

For more information or to RSVP contact Taliah Berger at 916.541.3720 or taiah@koohlcc.org
Take a Step Ahead.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning—November 17, 2013
Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street

On November 17th Jews around the world will share a day
of Jewish learning, dialogue and exploration, joining together
in celebration of all that unites us.

Join us for the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

www.theglobalday.com

At 10:30 am, choose from:
- "Studying a Hasidic Text on the Torah Reading of the Week" - Rabbi Alan Green
- "Creating the Amidah: How Our Defining Prayer Came into Being" - Chazzan Anibal Mass
- PJ Library Program for Families with Young Children: "Mezuzah Madness"

12:00 pm: Brunch and Live Stream: "Let My People Know" - Rabbi Steinsaltz
1:00 pm: "Of Roses and Prohibitions: Creativity, Innovation, and Personal Choice in Jewish Thought" - Rabbi Ari Ellis (Showcased in worldwide satellite broadcast)

Free, no tickets required.

For information or to reserve your spot call Florencia Katz: 204.480.7539
The Longest Translation

When he began the project, Rabbi Steinsaltz, then only 28, thought it would take a decade or two “at most.” JTA

Forty-five years after he began his revolutionary reworking of the Talmud, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz takes time to celebrate its completion — through learning.

Wednesday, November 3, 2010
Steve Lipman
Staff Writer

When Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz began his monumental project of translating the Talmud into contemporary Hebrew, piercing the dense layers of wisdom and commentary contained in the ancient text, Levi Eshkol of the now-defunct Mapai party was Israel’s prime minister, the young country’s population stood at a mere 2.5 million, and when a Beatles concert there was canceled, it was assumed the country’s leaders thought the Fab Four would corrupt its youth.

It was 1965. And for the next 45 years, working at first out of a cramped office in Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz, an Israeli scholar and author, would churn out tractate after tractate, translating by his own estimate “millions” of words from Aramaic into modern Hebrew and then English.
Along the way he did nothing less than free the Talmud from the province of a small number of scholars and make it available to a new generation of learners.

One of those learners was Rabbi Andy Bachman. During his student days at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in the early 1990s, the future rabbi taught an adult education course at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, where he now serves as spiritual leader. The course included study of the Talmud’s Berachot tractate, and he had the choice of three texts: the standard Aramaic version popularly known as the Vilna Shas, an English translation published by Soncino Press two generations earlier, and a more recent translation by Rabbi Steinsaltz.

Rabbi Bachman chose the Steinsaltz Talmud.

“It seemed a good tool,” he said. It introduced basic Talmudic concepts to students who had scant background in Talmud. Unlike the other versions, the text in Steinsaltz’s was in contemporary Hebrew, with vowels and punctuation marks, and it made Talmud study easier, Rabbi Bachman said.

This weekend, the decades-long Talmud project that has come to define Rabbi Steinsaltz’s life, that “good tool” as Andy Bachman understatedly put it, will culminate with the publication of the final tractate in the series, Ta’anit. The day, Sunday, Nov. 7, will be marked by a “Global Day of Learning.” Dozens of communities across the world will take part in what is both a celebration of Rabbi Steinsaltz’s work and, in keeping with his vision, an opportunity for Jews everywhere to grapple with life’s “Big Questions,” as he puts it, ones the rabbis who compiled the Talmud wrestled with themselves.

In an interview with The Jewish Week from his office in Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz, now 73, looked back over his Talmud project, what observers term an “extraordinary” achievement, one that revolutionized and popularized Talmud study — and also led to serious criticism in some Orthodox circles.

“Jewish knowledge belongs to everyone,” the rabbi said. “Our goal is not so much to ‘spread’ knowledge, but to give it back to its owners.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz, who grew up in a secular Jerusalem family and has written some 60 books and established educational institutions in Israel and the former Soviet Union, said he embarked on the Talmud project because “the world needs it,” referring to a knowledge of the Talmud’s wisdom and insights.

“Jewish learning is not a pastime — it is one of the essential ways that connects us to our ancestors,” he said. His goal: make the Talmud “more accessible” and take away “the stigma” of the text as irrelevant to the contemporary reader. “Everything [that is not readily apparent] should be explained.”

Over the years, Rabbi Steinsaltz’s explanations have had a global reach, in Orthodox and non-Orthodox circles alike.
At Congregation Or Zaraa, a Conservative synagogue on East 84th Street, Rabbi Harlan Wechsler said some members of his weekly Talmud class learn exclusively from the Steinsaltz Talmud, and he will often ask them about Rabbis Steinsaltz’s commentary on certain passages.

Herbert Shapiro, a member of the Or Zaraa Talmud class for more than a decade, said he prefers the Steinsaltz Talmud. “For me” — someone without an extensive background in Talmud study — “it’s more comfortable.”

He and his wife donate a volume of the Steinsaltz Talmud to the congregation’s library every year.

In Silver Spring, Md., Zach Dyckman, a Modern Orthodox Jew who has been part of a small weekly Talmud class for more than 25 years, also said he favors the Steinsaltz Talmud, because of the Hebrew translations and the accompanying interpretations. “For me, it’s helpful.”

The Steinsaltz Talmud, according to Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, president of Clal — The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, “is used all over the place. I’ve seen it everywhere, from the offices of liberal rabbis to the offices of secular business leaders.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s approach of guiding learners, like an insightful grad school professor, through the thicket of legal and ethical teachings in the Talmud, has won praise.

“It’s like having a teacher explain [the text] to you,” said Rabbi Yitzchak Rosenbaum, associate executive director of the National Jewish Outreach Program. He calls Rabbi Steinsaltz’s Talmud project “a tremendous accomplishment. It’s extraordinarily impressive. It’s very creative.”

The Steinsaltz Talmud, Rabbi Rosenbaum continued, “is taking Talmud public,” so that it is no longer the exclusive domain of scholars. “The single greatest accomplishment is continuing to expand the popularity of Talmud study.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s Talmud, which includes his accompanying commentary and other related remarks from science or contemporary thought, marked a major departure from accepted tradition when it was first published nearly a half-century ago. Perhaps not surprisingly it often drew criticism from some Orthodox Jews because of its novel content and style. And there were those scholars who felt it was becoming too accessible to laymen.

The Talmud — both the larger, more-authoritative Babylonian Talmud, and the smaller Jerusalem Talmud — is a compilation of debates and discussions that took place in rabbinical academies after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. Fearing that the oral tradition would be lost, the generation’s religious leaders decided to record the teachings that can be traced, according to Jewish tradition, to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s decision to, in essence, offer a new text of the Babylonian Talmud (the 1,500-year-old basis of Oral Law that is the foundation of advanced Jewish study) instead
of the accepted Vilna Shas (nearly 6,000 pages of vowel-less, punctuation-less Aramaic surrounded by commentary in Hebrew, and other reference notes), was seen by critics as a slap at Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Steinsaltz says he did not pay attention to the “ad hominem” attacks on his role in changing the character of Talmud study; if people could not find fault with the writing, they criticized the writer, he says.

While the Steinsaltz Talmud has sold some 3 million copies over the years, it hasn’t been without competition.

In the 1990s, around the time that Andy Bachman was teaching his adult education course, Mesorah Publications in Brooklyn introduced its ArtScroll Talmud, with the Aramaic text and an annotated English translation. Rabbi Bachman eventually began using that version for the subsequent Talmud courses he taught. He was not alone.

While ArtScroll, whose Talmud publication coincided with the increasingly popular Daf Yomi page-a-day Talmud study program, has largely become the Talmud of choice in Orthodox institutions, especially haredi ones, the Steinsaltz Talmud remains a book for intensive study for many other parts of the community, experts say.

Sunday’s Global Day of Learning will be both a standard siyum, the completion ceremony that takes place whenever a tractate of Talmud or another significant text is finished, and a vindication of Rabbi Steinsaltz’s vision.

“It’s more than my own personal celebration,” he says.

The event, coordinated by the Aleph Society (the 15-year-old organization that supports the rabbi’s educational activities), and organized by The Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the JCC Association of North America, will include, via the Internet, Jewish communities around the world from A (Albania and Azerbaijan) to Z (Zaparozhie and Zhitomir, in Ukraine).

Some 260 locations, including several in the Greater New York area, will participate in the event. Many have also initiated long-term educational programs in recent months.

“Even before the Global Day, you may also want to engage in some of the Big Questions that are part of our communal study, such as: ‘Does God hear prayer? What is my responsibility to Tzedakah? What is sex for? When we say ‘do unto others’ ... who are the others,’” Rabbi Steinsaltz wrote in an e-mail message.

“Each community ... will decide what their day will look like — the Global Day team will provide each community with curricular materials, promotional materials and a handbook to assist with planning the day,” according to a statement from the JFNA.

The main ceremony, led by Rabbi Steinsaltz, will take place in Jerusalem’s City Hall.
The 45-year journey to complete the Talmud translation was “an enormous task,” the soft-spoken Rabbi Steinsaltz acknowledged. “The work wasn’t as easy as I had thought. I am not a fast writer by any means.”

With modern-day technology, he added, the project may have taken one-fifth as long.

When, back in 1965, the 28-year-old rabbi decided to do his own take on the Talmud, he estimated the project would take a decade or two. “At most,” he said, “20 years would be the maximum.”

Despite the drain on his time and energy, Rabbi Steinsaltz says he never thought of stopping. He kept going, he said, “in the merit of my ancestors,” the dedicated scholars who preceded him.

Now that the Steinsaltz Talmud is complete, is the rabbi ready to slow down?

“Never,” he said. “I have much more work to do, a whole list of books that I have to write.”

The rabbi said he has “two or three” major projects in mind. He offered no details.

“My plan is to live 170 years,” Rabbi Steinsaltz said. “The time is not allocated by me. The time is allocated by the Big Boss. I have lots of things to do.”

And so the next chapter — no, tractate — of his life has already begun.
The Importance Of A Global Day Of Jewish Learning

Mon, 11/10/2014
Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz
Special To The Jewish Week

Jewish knowledge is not just good to have. It is essential. Some may think that knowledge belongs to scholars, religious leaders and the elite. Not so in Judaism. For us, study is an essential demand upon everyone.

Of course, in history there were times when the general level of knowledge was not very high. Yet even then, study was always a major purpose and pursuit. Indeed, the very last paragraphs in Maimonides’ great work, “Mishneh Torah,” describe the grand vision of the Messianic Era: “For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Because Jewish knowledge is such a basic requirement, there have always been schools at every level, for both children and adults. Calling someone an “am ha'Aretz” — ignoramus — is a real insult, considered very offensive. Today, for reasons historical and otherwise, we are living at a time when this label applies to too many people. It is therefore our duty to enable those people to re-acquire that knowledge. The Torah says: “Moses commanded us a law, an inheritance of the congregation of Jacob” (Deuteronomy 33:4). In the Talmud, Rav Yehuda comments on this verse in Rav’s name: “Whoever withholds a halacha from his disciple is as though he had robbed him of his ancestral heritage” (Tractate Sanhedrin 91b). In other words, everyone has a share in this inheritance, and depriving someone — anyone — of what belongs to them is tantamount to theft.
Study is not easy, especially if one did not receive a good Jewish education from one’s parents or at school. It is not easy for an unlearned person to acquire knowledge. A Global Day of Jewish Learning, where people from hundreds of communities around the world study the same text, is one way of encouraging study, or at least the taste of study. Perhaps this small taste will encourage participants to go on and continue their learning, either with others or on their own. The Global Day of Jewish Learning takes place this year on Nov. 16 (theglobalday.org).

Because so many thousands of people are studying together, the Global Day of Jewish Learning transforms a solitary event into a venture that belongs to everybody. We are uplifted and inspired when people from all walks of life gather together in study; our neighbors and our friends, our families and those whom we have never before met. We have not delegated Jewish knowledge to the professionals. We have made the claim that it belongs to all of us.

The Global Day serves one more critical purpose. We are a nation that is spread all over the world, divided by distance, different languages and ways of life, and sometimes also by ideas. We are more fragmented than we can afford. When people of different ages and professions gather together and are immersed in a common cause, we create new common denominators, new shared experiences and values. These will serve us well — not just on one Global Day but also at other times and in other areas of life. We can feel that there is something that unites us.

Often we feel united only in the face of calamity. But our common inheritance, too, can surely help us re-establish many connections and repair many broken lines of communication. The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings hundreds of diverse communities together in an embrace of this central pillar of our inheritance, the pillar of Jewish learning. I hope we use this experience — and what it creates in us and for us — as a ladder for climbing higher up to reach the place where we are supposed to be.

This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning will be held Sunday, November 16. To get your community involved and/or to tune in to the live internet broadcast component featuring scholars, artists, rabbis, and authors from around the globe visit www.theglobalday.org or call 212-840-1166. The Global Day is under the aegis of Rabbi Steinsaltz.

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November 13, 2013

Jewish learning goes global

BY SALVADOR LITVAK

http://www.jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/article/jewish_learning_goes_global

A global conference of Jewish learning, including music and art performances, will take place online over a 24-hour period on Nov. 17. The Global Day of Jewish Learning will broadcast “24x24” — 24 classes from 24 speakers around the globe — free of charge and live using Google Hangouts On Air and YouTube. Scholar Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz will speak at 10 a.m.

The Global Day will unite 400 communities in 40 countries through the study of Jewish texts. Sponsored by the Aleph Society, the Global Day will be supervised by Rabbi Steinsaltz, who recently completed a 45-volume Hebrew translation and elucidation of the Talmud, the first such commentary since the 11th century. He is also the author of 60 books on philosophy, language, mysticism and history.

Rabbis, scholars, artists and professors will engage with this year’s Global Day theme, “Creating Together: Jewish Approaches to Creativity and Collaboration.”

Sinai Temple’s Rabbi David Wolpe will teach “How Moses Learned to Speak,” and Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, executive director of Mechon Hadar in New York, will challenge viewers with his talk, “How Can I Pray What I Don’t Believe? Creativity and Prayer Interpretation.” The band Stereo Sinai will perform songs and discuss their Jewish-text-based lyrics in their session “We Steal Lyrics From God.” Multimedia artist Hanan Harchol of Jewish Food for Thought, in his hour on “Making Jewish Wisdom Accessible Through Art,” will screen two episodes from his animated series and give a tour of his current exhibition. Novelist Dara Horn will describe the “The Theological Art of Storytelling.”

Viewers around the world will be able to sit in on classes broadcast from in-person community events worldwide. Virtual communities and individuals at home will be able to ask questions live on Twitter, Facebook and Google Plus. These videos will also be available on YouTube.

Karen Sponder, Project Director, explained that “our use of Google Hangouts On Air marks the first time this platform will be used for Jewish learning on a global scale. We hope that ‘24x24’ will inspire others to use the Internet to unite the worldwide Jewish community and make it easier to access Jewish learning.”

I will be participating from Gettysburg, Penn., where I will be attending the festivities connected to the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.”

Salvador Litvak wrote and directed the Passover comedy and cult hit “When Do We Eat?” His newest film, “Saving Lincoln,” explores Abraham Lincoln’s fiery trial as commander-in-chief through the eyes of his closest friend, Ward Hill Lamon. Continue the conversation at Facebook.com/AccidentalTalmudist.

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Old-school educators go hi-tech to promote Torah accessibility

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz’s annual Global Day of Jewish Learning on Sunday aims to harness the Internet to amplify the latest in Jewish education efforts

BY AMANDA BORSHEL-DAN | November 13, 2014, 8:14 am |

Trailblazing Jewish thinker Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is a pioneer in making Jewish texts accessible to all who wish to learn. The Israel Prize winner, an author of some 60 books on an eclectic array of topics, is most associated with his Hebrew translation and commentary on the Talmud, but he is — above all — an educator. In an effort to amplify his educational efforts, five years ago Steinsaltz’s Aleph Society instituted a Global Day of Jewish Learning in select Diaspora communities and institutions. Now a slick high-tech endeavor broadcast on Google Hangouts simultaneously everywhere, this year’s Global Day brings dozens of diverse educators onto your laptop for 24 hours of free text-based classes.

Taking place on Sunday, November 16, the theme of the fifth annual Global Day is “Heroes & Villains, Saints & Fools: The People in the Book.” Though most lessons will be in English, speakers residing in seven countries will discuss biblical characters in a choice of five languages with registered participants from some 400 communities in 48 countries around the world.

Most lessons are held in front of a live audience at institutions’ festive Global Day of Jewish Learning events. But the world is their stage as classes are also simultaneously livestreamed via Google Hangouts On Air.

From living rooms or coffee shops, participants across the Diaspora can live chat questions to the teachers or interact with other students via Twitter (@TheGlobalDay) and Facebook. And if a session falls in the wee hours of the night, no worries: the classes will also be available for posterity on YouTube.
For some, harnessing the power of a rapidly changing technology can be a double-edged sword.

“While the Internet has done much to improve our lives, it often facilitates a more atomized, disconnected world. Thankfully, this day of learning offers us the opportunity to leverage the Internet to connect deeply — to Torah and to each other,” says Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, who is scheduled to teach during the Global Day.

Kaunfer, the co-founder and executive director of New York’s egalitarian learning program Mechon Hadar, also has an online learning initiative called Project Zug, which pairs Israelis and Diaspora Jews for virtual chevruta-style learning.

Other speakers include a wide variety of rabbis and educators, French Jewish mystic Michael Sebban and musician Alicia Jo Rabins.

A living library of Jewish texts

It is quite probable that most of the Global Day’s presenters will use a new resource called Sefaria to prepare their source materials.

One of the more exciting technological initiatives in the Jewish education world today, Sefaria calls itself “a living library of Jewish texts.” In line with the Steinsaltz accessibility ethos, the project promotes the idea of using free, new technology to make ancient wisdom available to all.

Sara Tillinger Wolkenfeld, the director of Education and Community Engagement at Sefaria, is scheduled to speak about Rachel’s voice in the Bible and rabbinic sources for the Global Day. She tells The Times of Israel her lecture was prepared using Sefaria’s trove of texts, all found at the click of a mouse.

While a seasoned educator herself who has taught at top institutions such as Drisha in New York, Wolkenfeld says her work at Sefaria often involves teaching educators about the project.

Although it’s perhaps the ultimate in free text-based education tools around, it is difficult to describe Sefaria. It is simultaneously a repository for sacred texts and their translations, a concordance that effortlessly lists the citations of words or biblical verses throughout all of the Bible and rabbinic literature, a platform upon which to create classroom handouts, and a community.

Like Wikipedia, Sefaria relies on volunteers to pay-it-forward and help load a wealth of texts and translations. And it’s working. Wolkenfeld proudly says the project recently passed the 1,000 mark of individuals who have contributed code or content to the website.
Wolkenfeld explains Sefaria runs “contests” for untranslated texts, with the “prize” being the use of your translation on the website. In this way it has seen the first crowd-sourced translation of the entire Mishnah,

Participation is as easy as making a personal profile and hitting the “help translate” button on the website. Anyone can submit, but there currently isn’t enough manpower to check over the translations. Says Wolkenfeld, “You can see where the translation came from and whether you want to trust or not.”

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‘The community translation becomes a playground’

The translators interact by messaging each other through the site to discuss their word choices.

“The community translation becomes a playground,” says Wolkenfeld.

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A very useful playground, however. While working on a personal project, Wolkenfeld said she noticed another woman was also translating the same esoteric text. She messaged her and proposed they team up, which will save them both countless hours.

The website is built to support multiple versions of texts and languages. Eventually, however, the team hopes to check and lock its own Sefaria-approved translations. Not, however, with the goal of making money from their reuse elsewhere.

All texts loaded to Sefaria are copyright free and users are encouraged to use them freely. There is no pay wall and the technical support staff will happily send requested snippets of code to one and all. A recent app on iTunes uses Sefaria code, says Wolkenfeld.

“We’re building a digital infrastructure for the future,” says Wolkenfeld. “We want to do things well now so it’s accessible to everybody.”

After centuries of moldy books and dusty manuscripts, Jewish scholars are just being introduced to the idea of “digital humanities.” The team and its cadre of volunteers has only begun to scratch the surface in implementing and leveraging all the opportunities afforded by effortless exploration of the data and texts.

“It really feels like being part of something big,” she says.
Jewish Education — On a Global Scale

November 11, 2015

On Nov. 15, Jews from more than 500 communities in 40-plus countries will participate in the world’s largest Jewish unity event, the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

It is an initiative that reaches Jewish communities across the continents, bringing Jews of all beliefs and backgrounds together. Participating communities range from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Beersheva, Israel and Mumbai, India. The event’s theme is “Love: Devotion, Desire and Deception.” Sessions will focus on different types of love, how they appear in the Bible and Talmud and how these texts inform relationships with spouses, children, parents, siblings, friends and God.

In 2010, Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz created the event to celebrate the completion of 40 years of work in translating the Talmud. Karen Sponder, the project director of the event explained that the program furthers the rabbi’s mission to “let my people know” and his life’s work to make Jewish learning accessible to all.

Steinsaltz is a teacher, philosopher, social critic and prolific author who has been cited by Time magazine as a “once-in-a-millennium scholar.” His lifelong work in Jewish education earned him the Israel Prize, his country’s highest honor.

“The Global Day of Jewish Learning, with people from hundreds of communities around the world studying the same texts, offers people a taste of study,” Steinsaltz said. “I hope that this small taste will encourage participants to go on and continue their learning, either with others or on their own.”

“We have found over time that many Jews have had little direct connection to Tanakh, to Talmud, to our rich heritage,” Sponder added. “The Global Day is an opportunity for everyone, no matter his or her background, to study and to connect with our people and our heritage.”

Joel Hecker, an associate professor of Jewish mysticism at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, will present one of the day’s 24 live-streamed talks at Temple Beth El, in Newark, Del., where he will dive into the world of Kabbalistic kissing. He is among today’s most prominent scholars of Kabbalah and will explain how kissing can serve as a metaphor between a soul and God, symbolize a loving relationship and how powerful a kiss is between a man and a woman.

“It’s exciting to have the opportunity to teach such a broad audience,” Hecker said. “I’m looking forward to being part of the event.”
Registered communities are provided with resource materials, including a curriculum and a video class with Steinsaltz. The conference is broadcast live using Google Hangouts On Air. Throughout the day, scholars, artists, rabbis and authors will present their perspectives on love in Judaism.

Na’ama Yarden, the education and program director at Or Shalom heard about the event six years ago and thought it would benefit her shul to participate. Each year, it does something a little different, but typically involves families and another synagogue, which is Congregation Beth El Ner Tamid in Broomall this year. This year, each grade will sing a song about love and at the end of the event, everyone will sing: All you need is love.

They also tell stories, color and have activities around the subject.

"It is mostly an opportunity to learn together," Yarden said. "The main idea is to bring two communities and different ages together to learn together in creative ways."

The University of Pennsylvania is also participating. Rachel Shaw, chair of the Hillel Education Sector said the plan is to two parallel sessions running on Nov. 15 related to the theme “Love: Devotion, Desire, and Deception.”

“To me, the best thing about Hillel, especially in a place with as vibrant a Jewish community as Penn, is the chance to explore Judaism with people from a huge variety of backgrounds,” Shaw said. “I hope that people walk away from the Global Day of Jewish Learning feeling similarly - with a really deep appreciation for what can be learned from other people, from different backgrounds but with a shared Jewish experience.”

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News Brief

Over 500 communities to mark Global Day of Jewish Learning

November 10, 2016 9:19am

(JTA) — Jews in more than 500 communities in over 40 countries will study the same Jewish texts as part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

The project, spearheaded by the Aleph Society, will provide learning resources for all ages and backgrounds.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning was established in 2010 to mark the completion of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz’s 45-year quest to complete his translation and commentary of the Talmud. Steinsaltz is also the author of 60 books on philosophy, language, mysticism and history.

This year, learning can also take place with Global Day On Air, a live, online video series. The broadcasts will be live-streamed throughout the day at TheGlobalDay.org/videos or on YouTube.

The Global Day On Air is co-presented with international organizations, including the Biblical Museum of Natural History, Hazon, The Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, JIFA, Olam, Mechon Hadar, Teva Ivri and Universidad Hebraica Mexico.

This year’s theme focuses on ecology and is titled “Under the Same Sky: The Earth is Full of Your Creations.”

“The choice of ecology as a subject was both for its importance as an international issue, and also for us as Jews, since we have become a mostly urban people — many see vegetables as the only plants, on a plate,” Steinsaltz said in a statement.

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FEATURED STORIES

Jared and Ivanka do their own thing as observant Jews. And that's normal.
Melton Schools Participate in Global Day of Jewish Learning

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning provided a specially designed lesson to study as an official part of the 2013 Global Day of Jewish Learning, held Nov. 17, 2013.

Several Melton Schools participated and offered the lesson. Viv Amstey and Lauren Saltcher created a multi-generational setting for the Global Day of Jewish Learning in Cape Town.

“We had Esther Maisels (pictured below), our Rhythms teacher, teach 17 adults in the Sukkah of the Gardens Shul. There was great participation and robust debate and all present had an inspiring morning.

We had a master storyteller entertaining the kids in the “Small Sukkah” with PJ Library books for the first 15 minutes after which the kids had a snack. We then had a gentleman from the Jewish old aged home come to talk with the children on their life in “der heim” [the shool] and how they came to Cape Town as well as their early life in South Africa. One of the residents came with a portfolio of all his artworks and gave the kids a photocopy of one pieces which they were thrilled about.

We look forward to participating in 2014.”

The GDJL is an initiative to unite Jews around the world through the study of our shared texts. It is under the aegis of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. This year’s theme was “Creating Together: Jewish approaches to creativity and collaboration.” Worldwide, the GDJL engaged 400 communities.

Monty Teperson shares copies of his artwork with children in Cape Town.
Five Broward County rabbis teamed to recreate biblical characters in the program "All You Need Is Love" as the 2015 Global Day of Jewish Learning took place recently at Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El in Plantation, coordinated by the Orloff Central Agency for Jewish Education.

The GDOJL was conceived to mark the completion of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's monumental translation of the Talmud in 2010. According to Judy Asuleen, Orloff CAJE director of Education, 2015 marks a milestone in which 400 communities from more than 40 countries are participating in the event.

What was especially novel about the 2015 program was seeing the local rabbis becoming actors in discussing the meaning of love dressed and speaking as Jewish heroes and thinkers from throughout the ages.

"What is especially relevant as a teacher is to see the quotes from biblical characters became more vivid and expressive by recreating the historical figures," said Rabbi Cheryl Weiner, a community educator, who acted and dressed as Ruth.

Joining Weiner as Ruth on the panel discussion of historical figures commenting on what love is and is not were: Rabbi Gideon Goldenholz of Temple Sinai of Hollywood who was Jacob, Rabbi Howard Needleman of Temple Kol Ami Emanu-el as King David, Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Temple Solel as Franz Rosenzweig and Rabbi Arnold Samlan, executive director, Orloff CAJE as King Solomon. Rabbi Akiva Mann, a frequent CAJE lecturer and director of the Institute of Jewish Knowledge and Learning was the moderator.
Each rabbi brought a different perspective of what love is and means from the era of Jewish history that each character represented.

"Life was not easy for me as Saul tried to kill me when he knew I would be king," said King David (Needleman).

"I expressed love through my songs that were played with my harp. I wanted to unify all the different tribes together as I had difficult children. I had the love of my brothers and that is the love I wanted to inspire though my psalms, and create love though unity through my messages," said King David.

As Franz Rosenzweig, the German Jewish philosopher of the early 20th century, prior to the rise of Nazism, Salkin noted that love is from the Hebrew word *Ahava*.

"Love is not emotion or eroticism. Love means that I exist. Love also means that I am in a covenant with you," said Rosenzweig.

Rosenzweig died of Lou Gehrig's disease prior to age 30 and, despite his physical handicaps, stresses the importance of what love is, influenced by existentialism and Martin Buber.

"*Ahava* or love is about how to be giving, but for someone who hates me, *Ahava* may have limits," said Jacob (Goldenholz).

"I have to be forgiving and accept others, but I must also be ready to defend myself to those who hate me and prepare for war in case it is needed," said Jacob.

King Solomon interpreted love to be compassion and to be so compassionate that one may spare one life's for another.

"I am known for my wisdom. When two women made claim to a child as their son, I suggested that the child be divided in half. The woman, who truly loved her child, made the compassionate sacrifice to renounce her claim to spare the life of the child. I had love shown to me by the compassion of the woman who renounced her claim. A mother who made that choice is the one that showed love," said Solomon (Samlan).

Perhaps the biblical character that resonated best with the audience was Ruth.

Unlike the other biblical characters, Ruth indicated her love for freely choosing Judaism and freely caring for her mother in law.

"I was revered by Jews to be called the mother of royalty. As I told my mother in law, where you
go, I will go and followed her to the end of her days. There is a great legacy of love to those who choose to be part of your tribe (Judaism)," said Ruth (Weiner).

"For those who wish to be Jews, we act through love. For those who love Judaism, we say come to us, join us and become one with us. As women, we love with Hesed (translated from Hebrew as "kindness").

Each of the biblical characters took questions, responding to what love means in the contemporary era. One interesting question brought up the dilemma of how to show love regarding the Syrian refugees, given the recent tragedies in France.

"Love means giving someone a chance, not to give a clear message that those who look like evil will do evil. We have to be careful between when it is right to protect ourselves and when we are doing harm to the innocent," said Ruth.

"I am very practical. I say forgive and trust, but also prepare to defend yourself and be cautious, as we must always be ready to defend ourselves," said Jacob.

"The program was so educational and entertaining as well. Dressed and acting as the biblical characters, I had a deeper understanding of the concept of love though the biblical eras of Jewish history," said Holly Lerner of Weston, who attended the event.

To learn about upcoming events from the Orloff Central Agency For Jewish Education, 5890 S. Pine Island Road in Davie, call 954-660-2074 or go to www.orloffcaje.org

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Global Day of Jewish Learning - Dnepro Region - 2014

Shalom dear colleagues and friends,

On November 16th, JCCs of eastern Ukraine joined in the celebration of 5th Global Day of Jewish Education. This year the festival of Jewish knowledge named "The People of the Book: heroes and villains, righteous and fools" has involved children and adults of all ages and walks of life in the richest imaginable range of educational activities. Mostly, all sessions were held in two main directions: educational lectures, discussions and presentations and arts & crafts workshops and master-classes.

Particularly in Dnepropetrovsk Solomonica JCC in close partnership with religious Jewish community organized a vast Limmud-style event under the roof of the Menorah Center, which is the home to most of Jewish organizations in the city. The partnership, which has already become a tradition greatly enriched and diversified the range and content of the events attended by over 400 participants. Best Jewish lecturers delivered both introductory and advanced sessions in all fields of Judaism for teens, youth and adults while JCC madrashim and educators offered exciting and diverse master-classes and workshops for families and kids. The closing event concluded with the quiz on Jewish knowledge offering greatest Jewish books to the winners.

On November 14-16th in Zaporozhye, 100 members of the JCC youth programs attended the Shabbaton specially dedicated to volunteerism and Jewish learning. Among the highlights of the Shabbaton were a remarkable play about the life challenges of special needs people presented by youth volunteer club and Jewish poetry-based performance of JCC teen’s club drama studio. At the same time Zaporozhye JCC offered a creative Jewish learning program for children, and specially designed tour of Jewish Zaporozhye for adults.

Apart from classic topics of Torah studies, Jewish tradition and literature, over 1000 kids and adults all over the region had a chance to learn while discovering own creativity and talent at the vocal, dance, poetry, drama, chess or pottery-making master-classes and to enjoy the genuine feeling of belonging to a friendly, strong and resourceful community.

Please, see the photo report here: https://plus.google.com/photos/114258570614871609235/albums/6085192801426881361?authkey=CNSSgr-YotivwE

Best regards, Yoni Leifer and Dnepro JDC team

Всемирный День Еврейского Образования

Шапок уважаемые коллеги и друзья,

16 ноября Общины Центры региона восточного Украины присоединились к празднеству 5-го Всемирного Дня Еврейского Образования. В этом году фестиваль еврейских знаний под названием "Люди книги. герои и злодеи, праведники и глупцы" привлек детей и взрослых всех возрастов широким спектром оригинальных и разнообразных образовательных программ. В основном все занятия проводились в двух направлениях: образовательные лекции, обсуждения и презентации и творческие мастер-классы.

В Днепропетровске ЕОЦ Соломоника в тесном сотрудничестве с местной религиозной общиной организовал крупное мероприятие в стиле Лиммуда в здании центра Менора, в котором сегодня располагаются большинство еврейских организаций города. Благодаря такому сотрудничеству, уже ставшему хорошей традицией, программа, в которой смогут принять участие более 400 участников, была максимально насыщенной и разноплановой. Лучшие лекторы провели как вводные, так и углубленные занятия по различным аспектам иудаизма для подростков, молодежи и взрослых. В то же время мадрехи и специалисты общинного центра предложили увлекательные мастер-классы для семей и детей. День завершился викторией на тему еврейских книг, где волонтерами для победителей стали прекрасные еврейские книги.

14-16 ноября Община Центр г. Запорожья организовал для 100 участников молодежных программ Шаббатон, посвященный теме волонтерства и еврейских знаний. Одним из наиболее ярких событий Шаббатона стали две театральные постановки: одна из них была подготовлена участниками молодежного волонтерского клуба и посвящена жизни людей с особыми потребностями, а вторую постановку по мотивам произведений выдающихся еврейских поэтов показали участники подросткового клуба Обшного Центра. В то же время Запорожский Общинный Центр подготовил увлекательную образовательную программу для детей и специально разработанную экскурсию по еврейскому Запорожью для взрослых.

Помимо обучения классическим темам, касающимся Торы, еврейских традиций и литературы, более 1000 детей и взрослых по всему региону получили возможность приобщиться к творческим занятиям по вокалу, еврейскому танцу, поэзии, театральному искусству, гончарному делу и шахматам. Каждый мог насладиться прекрасной атмосферой и истинным чувством принадлежности к дружной и сильной общине.


С уважением, Йоны Лейфер и команда Джойнт Днепропетровск

Best Regards!

Yoni Leifer  
JDC Representative  
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
Representative Office in Eastern Ukraine  
Visit our website: www.jdc.org
The Jewish Federation of Howard County and the Howard County Board of Rabbis played host to 150 members of the county’s Jewish community who came together Nov. 16 at Howard Community College to participate in the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

Attendees were treated to presentations by 14 area rabbis who expanded on the theme, “Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book.” The gathering marked the first time the community as a whole participated in the worldwide event, joining more than 500 communities in 40 countries participating in the fifth annual day of learning.

“[This is a] very important program for us as a community to come together. It’s something that has been missing in Howard County that people wanted to come together,” said Jessica Zellweger, marketing and communications associate at the federation.

Divided into two one-hour sessions, with a snack break in between, attendees chose from lectures with titles such as “Moses: Extraordinary Prophet or Just Your Average Mo?” presented by Rabbi Morris Zimbalist; “Modern Poetry, Contemporary Midrash — Drawing Inspiration for the People of the Book,” presented by Rabbi Sonya Starr of Columbia Jewish Congregation; and “Resurrection — Biblically Speaking,” presented by Rabbi Mendel Abrams of Beth Torah Congregation.
Rabbi Susan Grossman of Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia was among the clergy who participated in the first session with her take on “Heroines, Prophetesses and Queens — The Women of the Book.”

“On one hand, it means that the Jewish community in Howard County is coming of age,” said Grossman. “It’s thrilling to see the growth of community in this way and that the study of the Bible can be at the heart of the Jewish people — affiliated and unaffiliated.”

Betsy Singer Marcus of Columbia relished the opportunity to hear from other clergy from Howard County and to mingle with people from other congregations.

“It enhances our Jewishness to share our experience with people from other congregations and denominations,” she said.

Rabbi Daniel Plotkin, education director at Beth Shalom Congregation, presented “King David: Sinner or Saint?” describing the ancient ruler as a fascinating character and one of the most complex in the Bible. For Plotkin, communal learning is paramount to the transmission of Jewish knowledge to the younger generations.

“The goal is to encourage education as a lifelong pursuit,” said Plotkin. “For me, as a youth educator, it makes it easier for me to teach kids when there is an educated parent at home. When kids see parents and grandparents participate in Jewish learning they see that Jewish education is important.”

Board of Rabbis president Rabbi Craig H. Axler of Temple Isaiah in Fulton was thrilled with the outcome of this event.

“This idea of doing something as a community and exposing our groups to each other is a wonderful thing to do,” he said. “To have 14 rabbis with no friction … that encourages me on what we can yet do as a community.”
Soup, Partnership and the Global Day of Jewish Learning

Partnership2Gether, Kiryat Malachi

NOVEMBER 24, 2013

November 17th, was a special day. The “Global Day of Jewish Learning” (GDJL)

This year, Our Partnership has chosen to take a role and be part in our endless Jewish Chain that connecting us all over the world!

This year’s theme was “Creating Together” reflects the spirit and the core meaning of Partnership 2Gether. in our Partnership we had a learning session with the partnership lay leaders and professionals over nice bowl of homemade soup we discussed, through Modern and old Jewish\Israeli\Hebrew different texts, issues such as; common language, partnership, Jewish peoplehood and belonging.

The soup was great but the atmosphere was even greater and we all left back home with good taste for more....
Global Day was great! I created a bunch of different programs centered around the theme of creation and there were kids from pre-k through high school working on all sorts of different activities and rotating through them. There was also a track for adults.

The event was held at Temple Beth El, the congregation that I work with, but we were joined also by Heska Amuna Synagoguge and the Knoxville Jewish Day School.

Below is a picture of one of the projects -- a massive Jewish star that was broken up into many pieces, with each triangle representing a different day and the center representing Shabbat. They all got a chance to decorate and at the end we put it all together. The idea now is that the star will rotate between Beth El, Heska Amuna, and the Jewish Day School.

Alachua Haskins

Education Fellow, Institute for Southern Jewish Life
Visiting scholar Rabba Yaffa Epstein began the lunch-and-learn session during last month’s Global Day of Jewish Learning event in Nashville by asking everyone to engage in 12 minutes of chavruta, the traditional rabbinic mode of Talmudic study in which a pair of students read and discuss a particular text together.

In this case she wanted them to consider a passage from the Babylonian Talmud in which the rabbinic sages consider the question: Which is greater, learning or action, Torah study or righteous action? The passage concludes, “Everyone answered that learning is greater because learning brings you to action.”

The word “everyone” is the key, said Rabba Epstein, director of education in North America for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Learning in Jerusalem.
“Torah study gets everyone involved in the game,” she said “One of the ways it brings us to action is through the creation of community.”

She might have been talking specifically about the annual Global Day of Jewish Learning itself, which brought together thousands of Jews in hundreds of places around the world on Nov. 20 to study the same sacred texts. Among them were 140 people who gathered at West End Synagogue for Nashville’s Global Day event, which was sponsored for the fifth year in row by The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

The local event began with a plenary presentation led by Rabba Epstein that picked up on the Global Day theme – Under the Same Sky: “The Earth is Full of Your Creations – by focusing on the ethical implications of the Biblical pronouncement that every human being is created in the image of God.

That was followed by six breakout discussion led by local moderators, each focusing on a topic related to the Global Day theme. Rabbi Phil Lieberman, also a professor of Jewish studies and law at Vanderbilt University, moderated a session that looked at the “green wisdom” in the Torah. A group led by Shlomo Rothstein, director of the Chabad House at Vanderbilt, discussed humankind’s sometimes contradictory roles in regard to nature – ruler, steward and servant – while another led by Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein of Congregation Sherith Israel examined the implications of shmita, the “Sabbath year” during which Jews are to let their land to lie fallow.

Dr. Frank Boehm, vice chair of obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt Medical School, led a discussion about what the rabbinic view about whether the source of medical healing is human or divine. Risa Klein Herzog, development director for the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, moderated a discussion about “planting seeds” for the Jewish community’s future, and Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman led a session that examined the role of rain, both
positive and negative, on human existence.

After the kosher lunch session led by Rabba Epstein came a new feature for the local Global Day lineup – a series of five- to seven-minute “TextTalks” by Jack Simon, director of children’s programming at the Gordon Jewish Community Center; Dorie Bolze of the Harpeth River Watershed Association; Diana Sullivan of the U.S. National Co-Housing Board; Abbie Wolf, Federation director of community relations, and Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah.

The day ended with a roundtable discussion – Meet the Rebs – with West End Rabbi Joshua Kullock joined by Rabbis Epstein, Rice and Finkelstein. The moderator was West End President Barbara Dab.

Rabba Epstein’s visit to Nashville was underwritten by Libby and Moshe Werthan. Global Day partners included Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center and the GJCC Early Childhood Learning Center, Jewish Family Service, NowGen Nashville, Get Connected, PJ Library, Vanderbilt Hillel, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah and the Micah Children’s Academy, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple-Congregation Ohabai Sholom and The Temple Preschool, West End Synagogue, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization (BBYO), Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women Nashville Chapter, B’nai B’rith Social Unit and B’nai B’rith Maimonides Lodge #46.
Nikolayev Jewish Community

In Nikolayev Jewish Community the Global Day of Jewish Learning was held in the Jewish Community Center. This Day of Jewish knowledge touched people of all ages - students, young people and parents. We conducted classes in the library, and discussed: "The community and its role in Jewish life – sages’ statements on this issue"; “The Talmud as a collection of Jewish thought”; and "Beit Midrash as a continuation of the traditions of the Oral Torah." The interactive discussion topics impressed all the participants. The texts that were handed out to everyone caused a lot of debate and discussion.

The PJ Library program, “Creating Intergenerational Community Together” contributed greatly to our Global Day event. It was led by one of our educational programming leaders, Irina Korsun.

Mr. Michael Goldenberg

Chairman of the Community
The Day of Jewish Learning in St. Petersburg, Russia

On November 16 St. Petersburg became home for a Festival to mark the Fifth Global Day of Jewish Learning. The House of Jewish Culture ESOD was crowded. More than 600 people came to the holiday with their families — small children and grandparents. A team of volunteers encountered the visitors and helped them to find the appropriate studio or lecture. All the rooms were given the names of famous national heroes or scientists. Bounded by one theme “Heroes and Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book” the events and entertainments lasted for the whole day. At the evening groups of youths and students came to play intellectual games. Visitors could buy souvenirs with the logo of the Festival, toys and books in the foyer of ESOD.

Charity Raffle organized in cooperation with the Jewish Fund Social (JEFS) became special feature of the Day of Jewish Learning. The partners of the Festival granted awards, Jean Freedman, director of the Israeli Cultural Center, and a representative of the El-Al Company drew the lottery. Charity Raffle brought money for the families at risk support.

At the evening the lottery drew Andrey Urgant. After that the well-known actor and showman gave a recital and talked about heroes, sages and fools. Simultaneous exhibition with a famous chess grandmaster Mark Taymanov lasted for hours and a half. Jewish elders as well as talented youngsters were his opponents.

The inimitable French designer, Alla Neyman, kept with the Festival guests enthralling conversation about harmony in one’s choice of clothing, and the issue of living the life of real hero in the rhythm of modern life.

Local media widely announced and broadcasted the Day of Jewish Learning. The event has been held by mutual efforts of the following Jewish organizations of St. Petersburg: “Jewish National-Cultural Autonomy — the Resource Center”, House of Jewish Culture ESOD, Grand Choral Synagogue, Israeli Cultural Center at the Embassy of the State of Israel, Charity Foundation “Regional Jewish Council in St. Petersburg”, Family Center “Adain Lo”, Jewish Agency for Israel, Hi-Tech Center “ORT-SPb”, Jewish Youth organization “Hillel”, Charity Center “Khesed Avraham”, Progressive Judaism Congregation “Shaarey Shalom”, Jewish Fund Social JEFS. The Federal Jewish National-Cultural Autonomy also supported the Festival.
The Global Day of Jewish Learning in Shanghai
An insight into the Shanghai Jewish Community

Jeanine Buzali
JDC JSC in Shanghai
November 14, 2011

The Jews in Shanghai are redefining the meaning of community. This city, like many other Asian cities with a substantial expat population, attracts a wide range of ages, nationalities, occupations, and personalities. Most people are here on a long-term temporary basis, but everyone seeks to make this place home. People are committed to socializing and building healthy support systems. Even though community-building has happened in a rather top-down fashion so far (there are five rabbis for about 2000 people), Jews are taking their individual responsibility to contribute to their community quite seriously. The question is, what will this community look like?

Through planning, and executing the first-ever Global Day of Jewish Learning in Shanghai, I learned a lot about what “the community” – used here as the population of people who self-identify as Jewish - wants and needs. It started out as a small thing, in my mind. I have been here for less than two months, networking solidly within the expat world and building a relationship with the all-Chinese staff at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. As the first JDC person in the region in a very long time, and the first long-term foreign volunteer the Museum has ever had, the time was still unripe for me to swoop down on the Museum with an event that centers around discussing Jewish prayer (another layer of complication is the fact that Judaism is not recognized as a religion in China).

Or so I thought. I had called and texted about fifteen people whom I thought would be interested in the event. Word got around, and on Sunday morning, my Chinese colleague (who very kindly ignored all the less-precise details about what was happening) and I watched as 25 people poured into what used to be the Women’s Gallery of the Ohel Moshe Synagogue, in the Hongkou District of Shanghai.

Brunch was a great success, a mixture between a family-style breakfast and a buffet. As we started the session and I read the Shema prayer out loud, I chills went through me. I had been so busy with the preparations for the event, with worrying who would come and how it would go, that I had barely stopped to think about what it was that I was organizing. I had planned the session and had read the texts and the facilitator’s guide, but it was only in that moment when I said the prayer that I realized how many people in the last century, under a wide-variety of conditions, had said that prayer in that same building.

The interconnected nature of the Jewish world is truly remarkable. Here I was, sitting in an old synagogue that once was the heart of a ghetto of Holocaust refugees, in China, reading Rashi and Maimonides, with 25 other Jews, ages 20 to 75, from Australia, Israel, France, the US, Mexico, Brazil, the UK, Turkey, Canada, and South Africa. We had some Chinese guests who participated in the session and kept us entirely aware of where we were.

It was such an unexpected success that I had to wonder: all other things aside, what is the Global Day offering that people are craving so much? Expat communities tend to focus on the basics.
Holidays, Shabbats and births are the predominant things that unite people here. The community is based on religious aspects of Judaism. But Shanghai Jews want to interact on a much more social level. This is what is missing in the community, an outlet for cultural Judaism, an exploration and questioning of Judaism with other Jews. And that is exactly what the Global Day of Jewish Learning helped to provide.

After the session, my colleague gave the group a tour of the Museum. Many of the participants had never been to it before. It was wonderful to learn the history of the place where we had the session, and it gave the event additional depth.

On my part, I learned a lot: about the community, about my strengths and weaknesses as a community organizer, about what is difficult and what is easy in the situation I am in. Above all, I realized that I am in a position to collide worlds. Yesterday I felt the potential of that, the magnitude of being in such a position.

There are things to be done.
November 17, 2013

The Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center of Jewish Culture in Trancoso today welcomed more than three dozen Jews and descendants of Jews forcibly converted or persecuted by the Inquisition from all over the country and Spain who participated Trancoso’s Global Day of Jewish Learning event.

Rabbi Elisha Salas, Sheliach (emissary) to Portugal of Shavei ISRAEL (worldwide Jewish organization based in Jerusalem) guided the work.

Participants had the opportunity to learn a bit about the Jewish personalities of Trancoso and the Jewish roots of this historic city, and also about its borders - especially the border region with Spain and Tras-os-Montes.

Participants viewed the live internet broadcast of the lecture by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz Avin on "Creativity" and then engaged in a group discussion.

The Jewish studies performed today in Trancoso today addressed the themes of "Creating Bonds of Friendship: Acquire a Friend" and "Creation of Shabbat: Rest as a Creative Act."

The symposium dealt with issues and questions concerning "how each person has their own contribution to the world of creativity", "Is there no room for creativity in prayer or Jewish learning?" and "What role the arts play in Jewish life".

Rabbi Elisha Salas and Jose Levy Dominic chose to facilitate a Global Day event in Trancoso and at the Cardoso Center (which integrates Bet Mayim Hayim Synagogue) on behalf of Shavei ISRAEL due to "the meaning and impact that Jewish presence and heritage have had in Trancoso and its region, as well as the fact that many "bnei anusim" (descendants of Jews forcibly converted out of the Jewish faith) are increasingly in search of their roots of faith and blood and strongly wish to regain a vibrant Jewish identity.

"The Global Day of Jewish Learning exhorts us as individuals to increase our knowledge as communities, strengthening our communal efforts, and helps to unity us as part of the Jewish

The Global Day of Jewish Studies in Trancoso had major support from Shavei ISRAEL, chaired by Micael Freund, and collaborated with Jewish researcher Luiza Lyra Metzker, the Jewish Community of Belmonte, the City and the town of Trancoso, and Trancoso company EEM Events.

Rabbi Elisha Salas

Sheliach, Shavei ISRAEL
Dear Friends,
I want to send you all a quick update about the Global Day of Jewish Learning event we held last week. The idea was put forth by Rav Adin Steinsaltz and has developed over the last three years into a worldwide event. There were some 300 communities around the globe from 40 different countries that participated. Livnot participated for the first year and represented Tzfat. For more details you can visit www.theglobalday.com.

This year's topic was Gratitude and Blessings and we tried to bring the best of Tzfat into the learning and evening activities. The International Center of Tzfat Kabbalah, the Tzfat Hesder Yeshiva and Livnot educators led the learning. The event was focused on the community and the evening was conducted in Hebrew. While attendance was just over 30 for this first event, Tzfat was well represented. We had college students, medical students from the New Medical School in Tzfat, those from Shanat Sherut (a year of volunteering before the army), professionals, religious, and secular, anywhere between the ages of 18 through 80.

I was moved by the 18 year old and 80 year old learning together in chevruta, the observant and non-observant studying and listening to each other and from everyone signing together, finding gratitude in all that we had.

I see that as we develop the Kahal Project and connect it with our educational programming that we will reach ever greater numbers with the Livnot way and I think that is a good thing for the Jewish people.