

## Book Club Author Series

### Sunday, November 19: Avinoam Paul Sharon

Lt. Colonel Avinoam Sharon held senior staff and command positions in the Military Advocate General's Unit of the Israel Defence Forces. As Military Attorney for Judea, Samaria & Gaza, he was involved in the apprehension and prosecution of terrorists and the related legal and policy issues of counter-terrorism. He also served as liaison to Israel's General Security Service, the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section of the United States Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has represented the IDF before a variety of international fact-finding commissions and civil rights organizations, as well as in interviews with the Israeli and foreign press.

Lt. Colonel Sharon studied linguistics and Semitic languages at Columbia University and legal studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the IDF School of Military Law, and the Hague Academy of International Law. He earned an M.A. in Talmud and Jewish Law from the Jewish Theological Seminary's Schechter Institute.

### Sunday, February 4: Lauren Belfer *And After the Fire*

Lauren Belfer's most recent novel, *And After the Fire*, received the inaugural Book Club Aware of the 2016 National Jewish Book Awards. Ms. Belfer graduated from Swarthmore College with a B.A. in Medieval Studies and Art History. She has worked as a clerk in an art, a paralegal at a law firm, and an assistant photo editor at a newspaper as a researcher and an associate producer on documentary films. All the while she was getting up early in the morning to write fiction. *And After the Fire* explores life's great themes - love and death, family and faith, and the darkness of loss.

### Sunday, March 11: Peter Hayes, *Why?: Explaining the Holocaust*

Peter Hayes (Ph.D., Yale, 1982) specializes in the histories of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust and, in particular, in the conduct of the nation's largest corporations during the Third Reich. Prof. Hayes currently serves as the chair of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

*Why?* dispels many misconceptions and answers some of the most basic—yet vexing—questions that remain: why the Jews and not another ethnic group? Why the Germans? Why such a swift and sweeping extermination? Why didn't more Jews fight back more often? Why didn't they receive more help? While responding to the questions he has been most frequently asked by students over the decades, world-renowned Holocaust historian and professor Peter Hayes brings a wealth of scholarly research and experience to bear on conventional, popular views of the history, challenging some of the most prominent recent interpretations. He argues that there is no single theory that "explains" the Holocaust; the convergence of multiple forces at a particular moment in time led to catastrophe.

### Tuesday, May 15th - David Kramer, *United Nation: The Humanitarian Story of Israel (JCC)*

In *United Nation*, David Kramer takes us on a journey of Israel's humanitarian efforts that began close to 69 years ago and continues unabated throughout the world today. In his collection of over 40 stories, personal interviews and press releases, Mr. Kramer presents the benevolent and altruistic sides of the Israel nation that have been mostly hidden beneath years of censure and denunciation.

In addition to being the author of *United Nation: The Humanitarian Story of Israel*, David Kramer is founder and director of the NU Campaign. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children



## Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Committee brings Jewish educational programs to Beth El and to the greater Triangle Jewish community. We offer classes, lectures, and discussion groups on topics that range from prayer book Hebrew to mindfulness meditation, to psalms and megillot. Classes generally take place Sunday mornings at Beth El, or at other times in convenient locations in Durham and Chapel Hill.



## Regular Study Groups

- At 8:45 am on Saturday mornings, a group gathers at Beth El to study Mishnah before Shabbat services. This group meets in the Freedman Center, across the parking lot from the sanctuary building. There is also a brief text study after the 8:00 am Wednesday morning minyan. These study groups are open to everyone. No matter what your level of knowledge, whether you can come once a week or once a year, you are very welcome to attend.
- Wednesday morning weekday services starts at 8:00 am. Join us for services, coffee, nosh, and schmoozing, followed by a study led by Rabbi Greyber on the book of Exodus as read by the Medieval Jewish commentators. Rosh Chodesh Wednesday services start at 7:45 am; check the weekly announcements to confirm start time.
- We offer an advanced weekly Midrash class led by Rabbi Emeritus Steve Sager. Please contact Rabbi Sager (ssager18@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining this group.
- Do you sometimes wish there was more time to discuss the parasha/Torah portion of the week? Approximately once a month, we offer Torah discussions led by various congregants. Times vary from before (9:30 am) to an occasional session held after kiddush lunch.
- In order to meet some of our members where they are, Rabbi Greyber leads monthly Lunch and Learn sessions at the Chapel Hill Public Library. The topics vary each month.

## Beth El Lifelong Learning 2017-2018

### Post Kiddush Shabbat Speakers

- September 16: Imam Mowlid Ali  
“Forgiveness in Islam”
- September 23: Reverend Katie Crowe  
“Forgiveness in Christianity”
- November 4: Yahya Mahamid

### Hebrew I: Beginning Hebrew with Donna Goldstein

This course is designed for beginning students and will focus on learning to read basic Hebrew. We will explore the entire alphabet in print and script, and focus on learning skills to read more fluently for Shabbat services. This course will run for 12 weeks (September 17-January 21) on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the library.

### Hebrew II: Prayer Book Hebrew for Adults, with Donna Goldstein

This course explores the meaning of prayers and their place in the various services. You will learn to recite Shabbat prayers, understand the themes of the prayers, and build skills that allow full participation during services. We will also explore important prayer words to help you understand the prayer's meaning, along with many Shabbat tunes used at Beth El. This course will run for 10 weeks (February 4-April 15) on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m..

### SAVE THE DATE: Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Benjamin Sommer January 19th-21st



Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer is a professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Sommer's research focuses on the history of Israelite religion, literary analysis of the Bible, and biblical theology.

## Shabbat Parasha Study

The Lifelong Learning Committee will once again be sponsoring the very popular Parasha Study series, offering a chance approximately once a month for a study/discussion of selected weekly Torah portions, led by a rotating cast of Beth El's many rabbinical and lay scholars. Study sessions are customarily held in the Seminar Room of the Freedman center at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, although there may be necessary location changes due to the building renovation beginning January 2018.

- Saturday, September 9 (Ki Tavo)--Matt Diamond
- Saturday, October 28 (Lech Lecha)--Rabbi Laura Lieber
- Saturday, November 11 (Chayyei Sarah)
- Saturday, January 12 (Va'era)
- Saturday, February 10 (Mishpatim)
- Saturday, March 10 (Vayakahel-Pekudei)
- Saturday, April 14 (Shemini)
- Saturday, May 5 (Emor)

## Lunch & Learns with Rabbi Greyber 11:30 am - 1:00pm

Topics vary each month; please check our website calendar for more information.

- Thursday, September 14
- Thursday, October 19
- Thursday, November 17
- Wednesday, December 13
- Thursday, January 18
- Thursday February 15 (Rabbi Jerry Fox) “The Ten Commandments”
- Thursday, March 15 (Rabbi Jerry Fox) - “Two Seders, Two Nights”
- Thursday, April 12 or 19 (Rabbi Jerry Fox) “The Two State Solution”
- Thursday, May 17th

## Tisch at Rabbi Greyber's Home

7:30 pm

- September 14
- October 19
- November 16
- December 7
- January 11