

New Lehrhaus Annual Report – FY 2022-23

We resurrected Lehrhaus Judaica as **NEW LEHRHAUS** just under two years ago and it has been a stunning success. Our website and e-newsletter has grown to over 2200 subscribers. In the past fiscal year, 3,875 students registered for our programs (over 7,500 registrations since inception). We have offered 66 different programs over the course of the year including one-session presentations, multi-session courses (usually 4 sessions) and year-long language classes and Talmud Circles. Program videos have been viewed 5,745 times (10,975 since inception)



The response from the community

Enthusiastic responses from students and event participants follow most of our programs with 89% rating the program they attended as “excellent” or “very good.” We have received numerous emails thanking us for resurrecting Lehrhaus and offering stellar programs.

Community outreach

We have partnered with numerous organizations in the Bay Area Jewish community from synagogues and JCCs to Urban Adamah, KlezCalifornia, Manny’s Café in San Francisco and, coming soon, BASE-Bay. We’ve also partnered with distinguished organizations outside the Bay Area including YIVO and Jewish Food Society (both based in New York) and the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning in Warsaw.

Programs

We have offered a rich array of programs of outstanding quality with stellar teachers, drawing heavily from Bay area Jewish Studies faculty as well as from academic institutions throughout the US and in Israeli, and from among community rabbis, Jewish educators, artists and community leaders.

Our faculty

Academics: Robert Alter, Ron Hendel, Erich Gruen, Daniel Boyarin (all at UC Berkeley), Michael Krasny (SFSU); Daniel Matt (emeritus), Sam Shonkoff and Deena Aranoff (all at the Center for Jewish Studies at the GTU); David Biale and Eva Mroczek (both at UC Davis) Ariel Mayse and Steve Zipperstein (both at Stanford, Sarah Abrevaya Stein (UCLA), Fania Oz-Salzberger (Haifa University), Naomi Seidman (Toronto University), Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett (NYU), Steve Whitfield (Brandeis), Bruce Phillips (USC), and Liora Halperin (University of Washington).

Rabbis: Judy Shanks, Mychal Copeland, Steve Chester, Yoel Kahn, Peretz Wolf-Prusan, Chai Levy, Dorothy Richman, Jessica Graf, Rabbanit Shalhevet Robinson.

Jewish Artists: poets Dan Alter and Stewart Florsheim; musician Josh Horowitz and musicologist Uri Schreter; story-tellers Joel ben Izzy and Maggid Jhos Singer; filmmakers Yair Qedar (Israel), David Weissman, and Janis Plotkin.

Jewish Educators & Community Leaders: Dr. Yosef Rosen, Dr. Jehon Grist, Robin Mencher, Avi Rose, Dr. Eleanor Shapiro, Ken Blady, Howard Simon, Rachel Biale, Honey Meir-Levy, Aliza Grayevsky Somekh, Bonnie Weiss, Yael Raviv, Orli Bein, and others.



Robert Alter



Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett



Michael Krasny



Deena Aranoff



Sam Shonkoff



Judy Shanks.



Aliza Grayevsky Somekh

Sample programs

Prof. Daniel Boyarin: Talmud for Beginners

Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan: Maimonides' Eight Chapters

Multiple presenters: Should we Cancel "Cancel Culture?"

Prof. Steve Whitfield: The Jewish Lawyers who Fought Jim Crow

Prof. Sarah Stein: Jews and the 19th Century Exotic Bird Feather Trade

Multiple presenters: Abortion in Jewish Law & Current Politics & Culture

Rabbi Judy Shanks & Dr. James Gracer: The Bible in the Couch: A Rabbi and a Psychiatrist
Analyze Biblical Characters

Prof. Erich Gruen: Laughing through Tears? Humor in Ancient Jewish Texts

Multiple presenters 3-part series: What REALLY happened on Hanukkah/Passover/At Sinai

Multiple presenters: The Fiddler Phenomenon

Multiple presenters: Soil to Soul: Agriculture and Jewish Culture - with Urban Adamah

3 Study Tours: Morocco, Mexico, Israel: each prefaced by a multi-session prep course



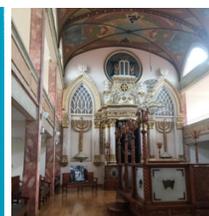
Talmud for Beginners



What REALLY happened on Hanukkah?



The Bible on the Couch



Mexico Study Tour



Laughing through Tears



The Fiddler Phenomenon.



Soil to Soul



Maimonides' Eight Chapters



Jewish Lawyers vs. Jim Crow.



What Happened at Sinai?

Our students

- About 55% of our students are veteran Lehrhaus Judaica/HaMaqom students. The newcomers have been very enthusiastic, far exceeding our expectations.
- 68% of students who did not self-identify as “already deeply engaged in Jewish life” responded to the statement “As a result of this program (or other New Lehrhaus programs), I am more likely to participate in another Jewish life experience” with “very likely” or “likely.”
- We have increased the number of programs geared toward younger and more diverse audiences, e.g., programs at Urban Adamah in Berkeley, Manny’s Café in San Francisco for a total of seven programs already held and several more planned for fall 2023.
- We initiated social media outreach with six campaigns between September 2022 and September 23. As a result, we added 140 new subscribers. Examples:



High Holidays



Hanukkah



Passover



Passover



General fall '22 Campaign

Finances

Donations:

Three (3) “Mega Donors” contributed \$140,500

Fifteen (15) “Lamed Vavniks’ Circle” donors (over \$1,000) donated \$30,800

125 individual donors combined gifts: \$15,000 (222 donors since inception)

Grants:

We received \$155,000 in foundation grants in FY 22-23

Income:

We instituted modest tuition in fall 2022 for about 65% of our programs: total income \$53,130

Thanks to the generous support of our community of donors and students, we are proud to have balanced our budget in both our first and second years of operation. Thanks to our very generous mega donors and significant savings realized by not hiring an Executive Director in this fiscal year (the E.D. serving pro bono). We were able to create a substantial reserve as an Agency Fund held by the Jewish Community Federation Endowment, for future use.

Board Co-Presidents: Judy Shanks & David Biale

Board members: Raphael Asher, Julie Bressler, David De Nola, Orli Bein, Katherine Haynes, Yoel Kahn, Janis Plotkin, Fred Rosenbaum, Ellie Shapiro, David Waksberg

Joining in September: Sue Fishkoff, Eitan Lev Kensky

Staff:

Rachel Biale
Executive Director

Jim Mavrikios
Program Manager

Marlowe Beckman
Program Assistant