

ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE IN  
THE SYNAGOGUE UNLESS  
INDICATED AS ZOOM.  
HOWEVER, THIS AND THE  
OFFERINGS COULD CHANGE DUE  
TO UNFORESEEN EVENTS.

CHECK BEFORE STARTING OUT!  
7 PM WES

West End Synagogue  
**ADULT EDUCATION**

5785

2024-2025



West End Synagogue  
A Reconstructionist Congregation  
190 Amsterdam Avenue  
212.579.0777  
westendsynagogue.org  
admin@westendsynagogue.org

## ONGOING WES PROGRAMS

**"Wise Aging,"** meets every other Tuesday, 4:15 on Zoom. They welcome all those who contact us. Those interested need to register. This terrific program will begin after Labor Day, 9/3/2024. If you would like to register, email Judith Friedman at Jbf165west@gmail.com.

**"Chug Ivri, – The Hebrew Circle."** The Hebrew Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month to speak Hebrew, read Hebrew poetry, short stories and nonfiction material. All levels of Hebrew knowledge are welcome. Contact Mel Scult for more information.

**"Sunday Study Minyan,"** Sundays, 9:30 – 11:00 am, led by Michael Graff. Close study of Jewish writings. Reading in advance of each session required. ZOOM

**"Sunday Morning Torah Study,"** 11:00–12:30 is a lay led Zoom group that discusses questions brought up by Torah study the day before, or any other any issues prompted by that parsha. In the last half hour we read the narrative *after the Israelites enter the land*: all questions welcome. Regular synagogue Zoom.

**"Middah on Mondays Study Group,"** 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Monthly, third Monday of each month. Led by Susan Schorr. All WES members are invited to join our study of West End's Middah (ethical value/character trait) of the month. Discussions are text-based using materials from both ours and other spiritual traditions, as well as insights from modern authors, pop culture and more. ZOOM.

**"Torah on Tuesdays,"** 7:30 – 9:30 pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, led by Susan Schorr. All are welcome to join our ongoing study of the Torah which will focus this year on the book of Exodus. We read the text (in English) and consider it from the perspectives of literature, sacred text, religious mythology, family lore, psychology, drama, history, sociology and more. Drop in and join the conversation, or just listen and enjoy. No prior background or knowledge is required. ZOOM.

## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**September 12, 2024. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Israeli Emissary to the Upper West Side, Gali Rabin, in the first of a three part series. This event will be "Short Israeli films".

**October 31, 2024. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Sofiya Bokareva. Multi Media Artist will speak on, "Art in the Soviet Union and in Russia today with an Emphasis on the Russian Jewish community."

**November 7, 2024. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Dr. Michael Good will discuss his book: *The Search for Major Plagge, the Nazi Who Saved Jews*. Major Plagge, the German Commander of a Lithuanian work camp, saved over a thousand Jews in Vilna, Poland during World War II. A book signing will follow Dr. Good's talk.

**November 20, 2024. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Gali Rabin, Israeli Emissary, will discuss, "Diverse Groups in Israeli Society: How they get along."

**December 5, 2024. 7:00 pm WES.**

Daniel Van Doren will present a reading aloud by WES congregants of 3-4 Jewish short stories on the theme of "Jews and their relationship with Christmas."

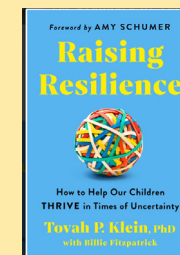
**December 18, 2024. 7:00 pm, WES**

Professor Tovah Klein, Director of the Barnard

College Center for Toddler

Development and a

psychology professor at Barnard, will speak on her latest book: *Raising Resilience*. A book signing will follow Professor Klein's talk.



**January 7, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**

**Professor Deborah Dash Moore** will discuss her most recent book: *Walkers in the City*. Drawing on the experiences and photographs by a generation of young Jewish photographers who belonged to the New York

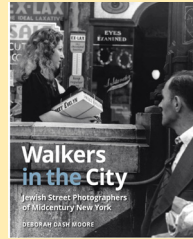


Photo League, Deborah Moore offers a new perspective on New York as seen through their eyes—a cityscape of working-class people, and a democratizing of public transit.

**February 6, 2025. 7:00 pm, Zoom Only**

Rabbi Dennis Sasso, Senior Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth El Zedeck, in Indianapolis, Indiana was among the first Rabbis ordained by the RRC. He will speak on “The Reconstructionist Movement: A 50 Year Retrospective.”

**February 27, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**



During an Interview by Dan Van Doren, Jewish short story author Nancy Ludmerer reads from and discusses her stories and a recent novel.

Her recent works include, *Collateral Damage*, *48 Stories* (2022) and *Sarra Copia, A Locked in Life* (2023).

**March 10, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Legendary Double Bassist and WES congregant, Leon (Boots) Maleson, will discuss, “Jewish influences on Jazz.”



**March 27, 2025. 7:00 pm. WES.**

**Rabbi Lester Bronstein and his wife Cantor Benji Schiller** will speak and sing on the theme of, “Preparing to Leave the Narrow Places: Personal and Global. Songs and Stories for Pre-Passover.”

**April 3, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Israeli Emissary, Gali Rabin will analyze “the current Kibbutz movement in Israel.”

**May 8, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**

Dan Van Doren presents, “A Night of Selected Jewish Short Stories.” Members from WES read 3-4 stories aloud concerning rabbis and how they deal with families, doubters and skeptics as well as their own place in the modern world.

**May 22, 2025. 7:00 pm, WES.**

**Jeffrey Heller, bike-traveler and lawyer, unravels American immigration law.**



We are using the nature photos of Israel courtesy of Nature Israel. (Cover, photos at left and below.)

Nature Israel is a green bridge for Americans who care about Israel and creating a sustainable healthy environment for our planet. Nature Israel works to increase American awareness and support for the work of SPNI (Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel) and Israeli nature through educational content and programs for all ages.

Most recently, SPNI created the Nature Heals Initiative which has provided eco-therapy to more than 100,000 Israelis traumatized by the October 7th attacks, making it one of Israel's biggest mental health responses since the war began. The scope and scale of the environmental work of SPNI is unmatched and has shaped the culture of Israeli society, as their motto says, to educate about, love, and protect nature. [www.natureisrael.org](http://www.natureisrael.org)

