

Jews to unite in first worldwide trans-denominational and nondenominational Talmud study event: The Global Day of Jewish Learning

The United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula and all 5 synagogues on the Peninsula are excited to announce that we will participate in the **Global Day of Jewish Learning**, the first worldwide, trans-denominational and nondenominational event devoted to Jewish learning. Jews all around the world will come together in communities, homes, and online on **November 7** to celebrate our shared heritage through events and programs during which we will collectively study, explore, and debate a single set of texts.

Our program on the Virginia Peninsula begins at 12:30 pm, Sunday November 7th at the UJC Campus - 2700 Spring Road, Newport News with registration and a luncheon. At 12:45 the Welcome and Overview Global Day Video will be shown. Following that, we will have a Live Siyyum from Jerusalem .

There will be two sessions in the afternoon. At each Session each participant will be able to choose between 3 different topics regardless of background and skills. The seven main topics are: Environment, God, Love, Leadership, Miracles, Prayer, and Tzedakah. All of these topics originate from tractate Ta'anit of the Talmud.

At the closing of Global Day of Jewish Learning at 4pm, our local Jewish Book Fair will begin where participants will be able purchase books and all the Temples will be selling items from their gift shops.

The website www.TheGlobalDay.com launched June 15 as part of the effort to engage everyone from the most secular "cultural" Jews to the most religiously observant Jews in a provocative global dialogue about Judaism's take on "big questions" like good and evil, heaven and hell, sex and relationships, and more.

A uniquely unifying endeavor, the effort counts among its supporting partners the governing bodies, leadership, and ordaining institutions of the **Reform**, **Conservative**, and **Orthodox** movements of Judaism, as well as the leadership of the **Reconstructionist** Rabbinical Association.

More than 150 communities around the world have already registered to convene **Global Day of Jewish Learning** programs on November 7, representing Jews

throughout the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, India, Australia, Turkey, South America, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan. By November 7, more than 300 communities will be registered to participate, in addition to 1,000 house parties worldwide.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning celebrates the culmination of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's audacious 45-year quest to translate the Talmud and unlock its wisdom for modern Jews. The November 7 date was selected to coincide with Rabbi Steinsaltz's completion of the 45th and final volume of his translation and commentary on the Talmud, a monumental task he began in 1965, at age 27.

"The Talmud is the seminal work of Jewish thought covering not just topics like theology and law and ethics and morality, but also medicine, astronomy, zoology, literature, and many other areas," said Margy-Ruth Davis, Director of the Aleph Society, which is spearheading the project. "Rabbi Steinsaltz has made it his life's mission to translate the Talmud into modern languages to return to Jews the ancient wisdom and knowledge that is their rightful inheritance."

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is a distinguished scholar, teacher, mystic, and social critic. He has written some 60 books and hundreds of articles on the Talmud, Kabbalah and Chasidut. In addition to the full Modern Hebrew translation, Rabbi Steinsaltz has translated parts of the Talmud into English, Spanish, French, and Russian.

Along with the **Aleph Society**, organizing partners of the Global Day of Jewish Learning include: the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee**; the **Jewish Community Center Association**; **Jewish Education Service of North America**; **Jewish Federations of North America**; **Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life**; and the **Shefa Institute**.

Locally, The United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, B'nai Israel Congregation, Rodef Sholom Temple, Temple Beth El, and Temple Sinai are partnering for this once in a lifetime occasion.

Visit www.TheGlobalDay.com for more information.