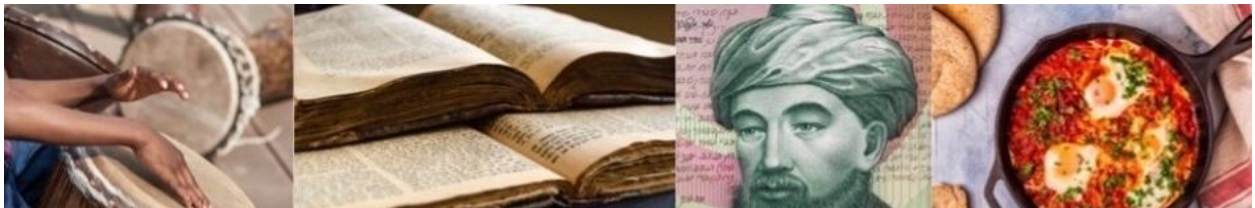




ANNUAL REPORT

**Fiscal Year 2024–2025
(7.1.2024–6.30.2025)**

The mission of New Lehrhaus is to bring students and teachers together in dialogue to explore Jewish sources, traditions, and arts, sustaining and enriching the vibrant spirit of Jewish civilization. New Lehrhaus is the Bay Area's non-denominational hub for adult Jewish learning, dedicated to scholarly excellence, open inquiry, contemporary relevance, and cultural and religious pluralism. We serve the greater San Francisco Bay Area and reach audiences throughout the West Coast, the United States, Europe, and Israel via our virtual programs.



www.newlehrhaus.org info@newlehrhaus.org

P.O. Box 7843, Berkeley, CA 94707

Overview

In its fourth year, NEW LEHRHAUS is continuing to grow and offer stellar programs to a large community of learners in the Bay Area and beyond.

Highlights

1. We introduced a **New Lehrhaus membership** in fall 2024 with a modest goal of enlisting 25 members in our first year. We have 54 as of the close of the year.
2. **Our website had 33,600 visitors** this year, consistent with FY 23–24 numbers.
3. Our weekly e-newsletter subscribers list has grown to **over 4,600 subscribers**, up from 2,650 a year ago. Our goal for FY 2025-26 is to grow the list to at least 5,000.
4. **Registration for programs was 3,100**, with actual participation of **2,370 attendees**.
5. We have **offered 70 different programs** over the course of the year, including one-session presentations, multi-session courses (usually four sessions), and year-long language classes, Talmud Circles, and Parashat HaShavu'a (weekly Torah portion).
6. Many people continue to **access free video recordings** of our programs, whether they missed a session or just found an interesting topic while perusing our website. **Nearly 3,000 have watched our videos this year, and nearly 19,000 have since inception.**

Sample programs include:

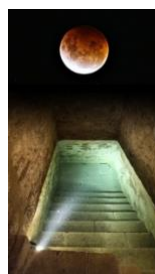
From the Page to the Stage: The Bible in Text and Opera; Man-Made Monsters: The Golem & Beyond; Jewish Values vs. Democratic Values; What is “Jewish Peoplehood?”; Josephus: Hero or Traitor?; Resistance: Hitler’s Germany, McCarthyism, South Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, and Israel; Wisdom in the Wine; Moon, Mikveh, Magic; Odd Couple: Moses and Machiavelli; Not Really a Complete Unknown: Bob Dylan’s Jewish Identity; The Amazing Irving Berlin; Artificial Intelligence vs. Jewish Intelligence; and multiple programs related to October 7th and the Gaza and Iran wars.



Page to Stage: Bible in Text and Opera



Man-Made Monsters



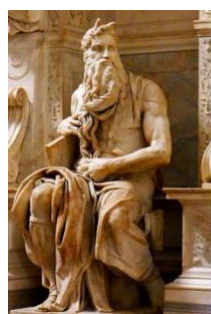
Moon, Mikveh, Magic



Resistance



Dylan’s Jewish Identity



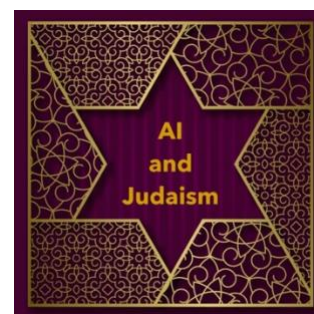
Odd Couple: Moses and Machiavelli



Josephus: Hero or Traitor?



Irving Berlin



Artificial Intelligence vs. Judaism

The Response from the Community

Enthusiastic responses from students and event participants follow most of our programs with 90% rating the program they attended as “excellent” or “very good.” We have received numerous emails thanking us for specific programs. For example, near the end of the fiscal year, we offered a 6-part series on Resistance to authoritarian regimes. Responses included:

- "I want to thank you for having this course. The timeliness and information provided are invaluable. I am sure it wasn't an easy decision to offer it, but please know, by the many attending, that it was the right thing to do. Yasher Koach!!"
- “The highlight of my year!”
- “I just want to send you my thanks for the extraordinary series that you have arranged on Jewish resistance. If only it were not so highly relevant now.”
- “I felt this was not only a program about history, I think it made history. We were very privileged to have this time with Albie [Sachs], such an amazing humanitarian and human being. And with the added insights of Louis, truly a special two hours, not to be forgotten!”

Community Partnerships

We have partnered with numerous organizations in the Bay Area Jewish community from several synagogues and JCCs to Urban Adamah, The Jewish Community Library, KlezCalifornia, the Magnes Museum, The Graduate Theological Union, The CJM, and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, among others.

Our outreach to younger, more diverse audiences focused on “Lehrhaus Alehouse” programs—events at places like the Beer Baron in Rockridge, Manny’s Café in San Francisco, and Covenant Winery, and “Hike & Learn” about teshuvah (repentance) in Redwood Park.



Tu Be’Av at Beer Baron. Rockridge



High Holidays: Alan Lew’s Poetry at Manny’s



Teshuvah in the Woods , Redwood Park

Finances

Donations:

“Mega Donors” (\$5,000 and up) contributed a cumulative sum of \$115,000.

Our “Lamed Vavniks’ Circle” (\$1,000 & up) and Board Members donated \$22,000.

160 individual donors gave \$15,000 in general funding, and \$35,000 in a special fund in memory of David Biale, who co-founded New Lehrhaus with Rachel Biale in 2021 and died in July 2024.

Several programs during the year have been dedicated to his memory.

Grants:

We received \$170,000 through ten foundation grants.

Endowment Distribution: \$63,849

Tuition Income: \$50,820

Memberships: \$8,720

In-kind Services (pro bono teachers): \$,10,000



Sanford & Linda Gallanter Foundation

The Michael H. Baker Family Foundation

The Milton & Sophie Meyer Fund

Board of Directors

Board President: Rabbi Judy Shanks

Vice President: Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Treasurer: David Waksberg

Secretary: Sue Fishkoff

Board members at large: Rabbi Julie Bressler, David De Nola, Maxine Epstein, Katherine Haynes, Prof. Rachel Gross, Dr. Eitan Lev Kensky, Janis Plotkin, Dr. Ellie Shapiro

Staff

Rachel Biale

Executive Director*

Jim Mavrikios

Program Manager

Elle Aviv Newton

Social Media & Growth Manager

***We have appointed a successor executive director, Robby Adler Peckerar**, who will assume his duties on September 1, 2025. Robby, who holds a PhD in Yiddish literature from UC Berkeley, comes to New Lehrhaus after a two-year term as director of education at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst MA (2004-06), four year as assistant professor at University of Colorado at Boulder (2009-2012), and 14 years as the executive director of Yiddishkayt in Los Angeles (2011 – 2025).