PEP is a chance to study together at BHC on select Sunday mornings in a casual and friendly setting. We have four different classes, two each semester. Every PEP class begins with bagels and sweets, provided by the PEP members, at 9 AM. PEP members take turns providing a light breakfast during the course of the year. PEP concludes at 11:45 AM.

PEP is supported by the Lieberman Memorial Lectureship Fund and the Lee Egerton Adult Education Fund.

THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF HEBREW
taught by Rabbi Andrew Busch
Fall, 9:30-10:30 AM

Certainly not a language class, this course will explore the journey our people’s language has taken across history, focusing on key ideas, creativity, and its impact on Judaism. No Hebrew required.

JEWISH THEOLOGY AND THINKING ABOUT GOD OVER THE AGES AND INTO TODAY
taught by Rabbi Amy Scheinerman
Fall, 10:45-11:45 AM

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman has been a favorite PEP teacher for years. She is a nationally renowned Scholar-in-Residence and teacher of Jewish text.

Long, long ago, Jews conceived Adonai as a powerful, cosmic Being with authority over Israel. In time, God came to be understood as the universal creator God. Later still: omnipotent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent. But differing views were eloquently expressed from the Talmudic period onward. With time, the variety of views grew exponentially, introducing (since the middle ages) creative abstract notions and adding new terminology. Yet in every age, (including ours) Jews have continued to employ traditional God-language, confounding many Jews who do not understand the writers’ theological “code.” We will explore many of these creative options for conceiving God.

WISDOM LITERATURE
taught by Dr. Susanna Garfein
Spring, 9:30-10:30 AM

Dr. Susanna Garfein and her family are BHC members. She is the Director of The Associated’s Center for Community Engagement and Leadership (CCEL) where she inspires current and future leaders on their volunteer journeys.

Throughout the ancient Near East we find writings that scholars call “wisdom literature”. This genre of literature was an international phenomenon with the same or similar genres, such as proverbs, instructions, dialogues, and fables, attested from Egypt to southern Mesopotamia. Wisdom literature is concerned with the realities of the human experience, from the mundane to the sublime, and with the relationship between the human experience and the divine. In this course, we will consider the books of the Bible that belong to this category of literature. Namely, we will survey the books of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes as well as wisdom literature from the ancient Near East.

SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF CHASIDIC MASTERS
taught by Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen
Spring, 10:45-11:45 AM

Study with Rabbi Sachs-Kohen some of the texts she has learned in her fellowship with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS). Having only dipped her toes in, she will not presume to TEACH you these texts, but rather will plan to study them together with you.