

2005-2006 OESTREICH ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Everyone knows that when Hillel was asked to sum up Jewish teaching while standing on one foot, he said, “What is hurtful to you, do not do to your neighbor.” But then he added this: “The rest is commentary. Go and learn.” We are never free from that mandate. It is the essence of our obligation and commitment as Jews to learn. Only then can the broad generality of “Love your neighbor” become focused, rooted in the accrued wisdom of our tradition, in how we understand our place in it, and in the future to which we aspire. We are delighted to be able to offer to our community many diverse opportunities to “go learn”—from Hebrew language, and Bible and Talmud, to contemporary Jewish literature, spirituality, and politics. Select one or more of these opportunities and seize it. You will do Hillel proud, and will, best of all, discover the joy of learning with peers.

Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Adult Education Committee:

Marlene Aber, Gloria Bieler, Barbara Bolshon, Sharon Bromberg, Rowena Goodfarb, Ken Gorfinkle, Ruth Kaminer, Irene Kohn, Anne Kwitman, Cantor Jacob Mendelson, Marge Moline, Rhonda Rubin, Audrey Samers, Rabbi Dina Shargel, Carla Silber, Arnold Silverman, Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, Morty Weinstein, Rosalie Weinstein and Ziva Zaff.

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I. HOLIDAY PREPARATION

A. ELUL PROGRAM: PREPARE FOR THE DAYS OF AWE WITH THE CONGREGATIONS OF WHITE PLAINS!

Again this year, four congregations in White Plains are participating in the award-winning trans-movement educational experience that will prepare our hearts, minds and vocal chords for the Days of Awe. Explore prayers, themes and music of the holidays, learn from and with Jews of many different standpoints, and strike a blow for pluralism!

Instructors: The rabbis, cantors, and educators of Temple Israel, Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, Congregation Kol Ami, and the Hebrew Institute of White Plains.

Schedule for 2007: To be announced in Summer 2007

B. PASSOVER WORKSHOPS

This two-session course is designed for people who would like to learn more about Passover observances around the world and new ways to enhance the Seders with creative and festive techniques.

Instructor: Rabbis Gordon Tucker and Neil Zuckerman
Schedule: Tuesdays, March 13 and 20, 8:15 PM

II. HEBREW

A. BASIC HEBREW – CRASH COURSE

You can learn Hebrew in 5 easy lessons! Following a curriculum and materials created by the National Jewish Outreach program, these courses have given thousands of people a reading knowledge of the Hebrew language.

This course will be offered in the spring if there is interest. Please call the TIC office at 914-948-2800 to put your name on the list.

B. BEGINNERS' HEBREW

We would like to provide a course for those who have completed the crash course or the equivalent, i.e. for those who can read vocalized Hebrew but who need to work on comprehension. If there is enough interest and an available instructor, we will create the course. Please let the office know (914-948-2800) as soon as possible of your interest.

C. INTERMEDIATE HEBREW READING COMPREHENSION

This continuing course works on reading comprehension and grammar. This year, we will continue to read simple newspapers, and other texts. If you have not previously been in this course, you may certainly enter, but please consult Rabbi Tucker first.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Schedule: Sundays from 9:30-10:30 AM, ongoing

D. HEBREW CONVERSATION - CHUG

The Hebrew Conversation group (Chug) is an informal Hebrew conversation experience. Members of the Chug

- ❖ Develop and/or deepen conversational skills –
- ❖ Discuss articles, current events, etc. in Hebrew
- ❖ Meet other people who are devoted to Hebrew and to Israel
- ❖ Are welcomed, accepted, and supported in their learning

If you are interested in this class, please call Susan Galla at ext. 112 in the Temple Israel Center office.

Instructor: Ziva Zaff
Schedule: To be determined

III. THE LEARNING INSTITUTE

A. JEWISH WRITERS IN THE UK AND IRELAND

This course is an overview of short fiction by contemporary Jewish writers in Britain and Ireland, comparing their work to that of their American counterparts. Among the writers discussed will be Anita Brookner, Ruth Praver Jhablawa, Emanuel Litvinoff and Harold Pinter. Emphasis will be placed on how diverse Jewish experiences influenced the literary perspective of the various authors.

Text: **Contemporary Jewish Writing in Britain and Ireland, An Anthology**, edited by Bryan Cheyette

Instructor: Gloria Goldreich
Author and Lecturer
Time: 9:30-10:45 AM

B. THE FIVE MEGILLOT (SCROLLS)

The narratives relating to King David in the biblical Books of Samuel constitute the longest continuous tale in the Tanakh. They are also incredibly rich in human drama, religious depth, and literary brilliance. We will be studying these stories with the help of Robert Alter's superb translation and commentary, entitled "The David Story." You will find that even those narratives you thought you knew like the back of your hand will take on new life.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker
Time: 10:50 – 11:50 AM

Both Learning Institute courses meet on Tuesdays in the Reception Hall.

October 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28;
December 5, 12, 19

Spring dates to be announced. Please note: there are fees for these classes.

IV. TALMUD CLASSES

A. MISHNAH TRACTATE TA'ANIT

This year, we are studying Tractate Ta'anit, which deals with the laws of public fasts. In the process, the Mishnayot will bring us into the subject areas of public prayer, the efficacy of prayer, reactions to public emergencies, the fasts over historical tragedies, and several more interesting historical and theological issues. We refer liberally to the Hebrew text, but we mostly read in English translation, and the class is entirely conducted in English. Even if you have not previously been with us, you are cordially welcome to join this lively study fellowship.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker
Schedule: Alternate Tuesdays, beginning September 5, 2006, 8:15 PM

B. MIDTOWN TALMUD CLASS

In this class, we will continue studying the first chapter of Tractate Bava Metzia, which deals with the laws governing the finding of lost property, and the disputes that may arise from it. In addition to the very interesting insight provided by these texts into the legal principles that governed rabbinic jurisprudence, this study also enables us to understand, by comparison and contrast, some of the legal principles by which we govern our lives today.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Schedule: Alternate Thursdays, beginning September 7, 2006, 1:00-2:00 PM

Call Susan Galla at the synagogue, X112, if you are interested. There is a fee for this class, and lunch is included.

C. WESTCHESTER TALMUD CLASS

The Talmud is one of the foundations of Jewish spiritual and intellectual life that has profoundly influenced Jewish thought, belief, and practice. This course is an opportunity to dive into the sea of Talmud and build a toolbox for future study. We will learn key phrases and words used in Talmudic discourse, become familiar with the governing principles of Talmudic logic, and get to know some of the rabbis of the Talmud and their particular approaches to Jewish law and belief. Talmud study is a life-long journey, each portion building on the next. This course is an opportunity either to begin your journey or to continue one you have already started.

Please contact the office for the schedule of dates. There is a fee of \$60.

Instructor: Rabbi Rachel Aranoff

Schedule: Tuesdays at 1:15 PM

V. UNDERSTANDING JEWISH LITURGY AND DEVELOPING SYNAGOGUE SKILLS

A. UNDERSTANDING THE SIDDUR

This course is a weekly exploration of the Shabbat morning service and is designed for adults with basic Hebrew reading skills who would like to feel more comfortable in synagogue and participate more actively during services. New students are welcome. Participants will:

- ❖ Build a basic Siddur Hebrew vocabulary
- ❖ Increase their comprehension of the liturgy
- ❖ Explore biblical sources and historical background
- ❖ Match the words to the music
- ❖ Discuss the tefillot as personal and communal spiritual expression

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel

Schedule: Library, 9:30-10:45 **every other Thursday morning**, on the following dates:

Sept. 28; Oct. 12, 26; Nov. 2, 16, 30

Dec. 7, 21; Jan. 4, 18; Feb. 1, 15

Mar. 1, 15 (no class 3/29); Apr. 12, 26

May 3, 17, 31; June 7, 21 (note June date changes)

B. ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Are you an adult who did not have the opportunity to celebrate becoming a Bat/Bar Mitzvah? Would you like to have this experience? Temple Israel Center's Adult Bat Mitzvah course is a wonderful opportunity to increase your knowledge and

participation in synagogue ritual and community. A new class will begin this fall if there is interest. For further information, please contact Rabbi Zuckerman at 948-2800, ext. 133.

C. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Would you like to learn to read Torah or chant a Haftarah? Brush up on your synagogue skills? Our clergy is always willing to assist you. Just call Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Cantor Jacob Mendelson, Rabbi Neil Zuckerman or Rabbi Dina Shargel.

VI. CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT

An informal study group led by Rabbi Gordon Tucker that meets Saturdays at 8:00 AM, just prior to the Shabbat morning service, to discuss issues relating to being a Conservative Jew in the contemporary world.

VII. JEWISH MUSIC STUDY

A. 4 PART CHOIR (SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, BASS) – NEW!

Explore various forms of Jewish music in this new course with Cantor Mendelson. If you have some ability to read music and can carry a tune, bring your zest for singing.

Instructor: Cantor Jacob Mendelson

Schedule: Alternate Thursdays, beginning November 2, 2006, 8:15 PM

B. HOLIDAY SONGS OF ISRAEL – NEW!

For most of the twentieth century, "folk songs" for each Jewish holiday have delighted children all over the world. But favorites

such as "Sevimon, Sov Sov Sov!" and "Hag Purim" are not of unknown origin. Many Hebrew songs for the Jewish holidays were penned by two prolific Israeli songwriters, Levin Kipnis (who lived nearly 100 years) and Naomi Shemer. Please join us for two evenings of fun and learning as we explore our annual holiday cycle through singing and discussion.

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel
Schedule: Wednesday evenings at 8:15 PM
May 9, 16

VIII. JEWISH HISTORY

A. THE NATIONAL JEWISH OUTREACH PROGRAM

This returning program consists of a five-session crash course in Jewish History. The course covers the nearly 4000 years of Jewish History in five 90-minute sessions. Sessions include: (1) Biblical times; (2) from a United Kingdom to exile and Diaspora; (3) the Jewish Epicenter moves west; (4) Jews enter and react to the modern era – from enlightenment through World War I, and (5) Holocaust and Renewal: 1933- present.

Instructor: Alec Ellison, developer of the curriculum
Schedule: Sunday evenings at 7:15 PM
October 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19

IX. SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

The Weekly Spirituality of Shabbat
Rabbi Nehemia Polen
Friday April 20 - Sunday April 22

On Shabbat eve, Shabbat day, and Sunday morning, Rabbi Polen will lead us in an intellectual and experiential exploration

of the ways in which Shabbat and its observance brings a deep spiritual dimension into Jewish life. Mark your calendars now, and don't miss this opportunity to learn with an exciting and endearing teacher.

Nehemia Polen is Professor of Jewish Thought and Director of the Hasidic Text Institute at Hebrew College, Boston. He is the author of The Holy Fire: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira, The Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto, and (together with Laurence Kushner) of Filling Words with Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer, as well as many academic and popular articles on Hasidism and Jewish spirituality.

X. SPRING LECTURE SERIES

A. PSALMS: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD: THE FAITH AND WISDOM OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS"

The Book of Psalms has been beloved by generations of readers. It offers solace in times of trouble, holds out hope for rescue and redemption, and helps to answer some of the difficult questions raised by faith. Looking at a selection of psalms, we will explore meeting God in nature, the problem of evil in our world, facing our own mortality, the call to social justice, and other important themes in the Jewish tradition. So come and study the teachings of our ancestors and together we will bring their wisdom into our lives.

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Zuckerman
Schedule: Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM
March 1, 8, 15, 22

B. UNIVERSALISM AND PARTICULARISM

As modern Jews, we struggle with our dual citizenship – we are Jews and we are members of humanity. In an age in which nationalism is pitted against globalism, how do balance our own tribalism versus membership in the global village? In this class we will examine the universalistic and particularistic messages of the Bible and explore their ramifications for our lives today.

Instructor: Michael Ragozin, Rabbinic Intern
Schedule: Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM
January 2007 Dates to be announced.

C. ISRAEL ADVOCACY: THE ARAB ISRAELI CONFLICT: FROM UNDERSTANDING TO ADVOCACY

The growing ideological assault against Israel on college campuses has created a new challenge for Jewish students. Our goals in this course will be to understand the complexities of the conflict in ways that will allow you to speak to your children and friends about the conflict, promote critical thinking, inquiry, historical accuracy, moral decision-making, and activism.

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Zuckerman
Schedule: Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM
November 16, 30; December 7, 14

D. SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Course To Be Determined

Instructor: Professor Benjamin Gampel
Schedule: Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
March 18, 25; May 2, 9

XI. FAMILY EDUCATION SERIES

A. PARENTAL PARADIGMS

In this class we will explore Biblical texts with an eye towards parenting. How did our patriarchs and matriarchs raise their children? What were their concerns? What was going on for them psychologically? I look forward to a lively discussion in which the voice of the text is joined by parents' own experiences.

Instructor: Michael Ragozin, Rabbinic Intern

Schedule: Sunday mornings 9:15-10:30

October 22, 29; November 5, 12; December 3, 10

XIV. FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL AT THE CENTER FOR ADULT LEARNING OF WESTCHESTER

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School (FMAMS) introduces learners to a broad spectrum of Jewish knowledge through an organized course of classical and contemporary text study, in English. The curriculum, developed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is expressly for adult learners who seek a dynamic, interactive means of forging a closer link with their Jewish heritage.

Class sessions are held once a week, thirty weeks a year. Day and evening classes are offered. A certificate of completion from the Hebrew University is awarded after two years of study. Each session consists of two one-hour classes with a short break between them. There are no prerequisites, grades, homework or exams. The faculty consists of educators from the different Jewish traditions, each of whom respects the FMAMS pluralistic approach to Jewish learning and fosters a classroom atmosphere of warmth and respect.

FMAMS is operated at 65 sites worldwide, with over 20,000 graduates in the United States and abroad. In Westchester, classes are held at the Hartsdale Campus of The Solomon Schechter School of Westchester and at local synagogues.

FIRST YEAR COURSES

- *Rhythms of Jewish Living* presents the ideas, beliefs and practices that define and shape the Jewish life through daily, weekly, annual and life cycle observances.
- *Purposes of Jewish Living* presents essential theological concepts and ideas as they unfold in the Bible and other sacred texts.

SECOND YEAR COURSES

- *Dramas of Jewish Living* presents existential issues in Jewish history from the biblical period to modern times providing insights into our lives as American Jews.
- *Ethics of Jewish Living* presents classical Jewish sources as a basis for consideration of contemporary issues such as organ donation, abortion, and business relations.

For details, teachers and registration forms, contact the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Westchester at 914-948-8333 ext. 498 or Westchester@fmams.org.il.

XV. JTS MIDTOWN STUDY GROUP

The JTS Midtown Study Group is taught by Rabbi David Hoffman, a rabbinic fellow at JTS and an extraordinary guide

and teacher. The Group meets one morning each month at an office near Grand Central Station, from 8:00 to 9:00 AM. Each class addresses a particular subject or a specific text, and Rabbi Hoffman leads an engaging and lively discussion that weaves in a variety of sources and topics. We welcome participation by new members. Please contact David Gilberg (212-558-4680; gilbergd@sullcrom.com) or Howard Goldstein (212-859-8502; goldsho@ffhsj.com) for more information.