

Fall 2021–2022 / 5782

The Oestreich Adult Education Catalog

Join us for these fall classes and programs



See our website, calendar,
weekly emails and social media
for details on these and other events.

Classes



LAY-LED TALMUD CLASS

Sundays, 8:00 am via Zoom

Congregants study Talmud together. No prior background needed. All levels of experience and knowledge are welcome and invited to join in this dynamic and participatory class studying Talmud.



ONLINE (FORMERLY MIDTOWN) TALMUD CLASS

Rabbi Emeritus Gordon Tucker

Every other Thursday, 1:00-2:00 pm

In this (virtual) class, we will continue the study of Tractate Gittin in the Babylonian Talmud, which is primarily concerned with the procedures for dissolving marriages. But Gittin also deals with issues surrounding the relationship of the center in the Land of Israel to the Jewish Diaspora, includes narratives about the last days of the Second Temple, and sets forth an array of practices and enactments that arose for the purpose of ordering society well and promoting peace.

If you are interested, please email Rabbi Gordon Tucker for further information.



PARASHAT HASHAVUA

Rabbi Mitch Blank

Fridays, 8:00-9:00 am via Zoom

Each session is a stand-alone class. You can join at any time; everyone is welcome at any or all of the sessions.



BIBLE BABOKER

Rabbi Annie Tucker

Shabbat mornings, 8:30-9:10 am

Join us for a lively discussion of our weekly Torah portion, studied alongside commentaries both modern and traditional. Come every week or whenever you can make it. All levels of background welcome!

Programs



ADULTS ON THE MOVE

Now beginning its fifth year as an arm of the Temple Israel Center community! The Adults on the Move trips have regretfully been “grounded” by the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, this year again during a pandemic environment, with input and suggestions from all, we plan to work together with clergy and all Adult on the Move “trippers” to again identify exciting virtual docent-led ‘zoom’ day-trips, transporting us all to venues well beyond the New York metro area.



THE RABBI GORDON TUCKER FUND FOR JEWISH LEARNING, THOUGHT AND CULTURE

In 2018, this fund was established to honor Rabbi Emeritus Gordon Tucker for his renowned reputation for Jewish learning and scholarship and to secure his legacy for the future.

The fund enables Temple Israel Center to create a vibrant Beit Midrash, offer innovative learning opportunities on topics central to Jewish thought, and invite rabbis, authors, artists, musicians, as well as other thought leaders from here, Israel, and around the world to spark lively interactions together.

This year's theme is TRUTH

How do we determine what is true and what is not? How can we understand the lack of shared truth that seems to exist today and learn to better speak with those whose ideas are so different from our own? This year's Rabbi Gordon Tucker Fund Beit Midrash program will bring both Jewish and secular wisdom to bear on these important topics, helping us to better navigate a world in which truth feels both more important and more elusive than ever before.

“What is Truth:” Opening Program with Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Wednesday, October 13, 8:15-9:30 pm (in-person in the Milstein Sanctuary and via Livestream)

“Truth, Free Speech, and the Media”

Sunday, November 7, 10:15-11:30 am (in-person in the Milstein Sanctuary and via Livestream)

Moderator: Scott Richman, ADL Director of New York and New Jersey, and TIC member

Speakers: Stephen Levy, author of *Facebook, The Inside Story* and Suzanne Nossel, author of *Dare to Speak, Defending Free Speech For All*

Truth Salons

Saturdays, November 20, December 18, 2021; January 22, February 19, and March 19, 2022 immediately following Kiddush

Join us for Shabbat Cafés where Rabbi Annie Tucker, Rabbi Adir Yolcut, and members of the TIC community will share reflections on what truth means to them and how they navigate complex issues of truth and falsehood in their personal and professional lives.

“The Ethics of Lying:” Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi David Hoffman

February 4-6, 2022 (details to come)

Spring 2022 schedule to be announced soon

TIC TALKS TIC TALKS

Author Series

Join as we hear from authors and discuss newly published contemporary Jewish books. Sponsored in part by The Jewish Book Council.

***A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Stockholm* by Robert Lefkowitz**

Thursday, October 7, 7:00 pm via Zoom

A glimpse into the life of one of today's leading scientists, Dr. Robert Lefkowitz, who is known for being a larger-than-life character: a not-immodest, often self-deprecating, entertaining raconteur who won a Nobel Prize in biochemistry.

***He Gets That From Me* by Jacqueline Friedland**

Sunday, October 24, 10:00 am in-person bagel brunch

High-energy and immensely readable, *He Gets That from Me* explores what it really means to be part of a family.

***Leonora In The Morning Light* by Michaela Carter**

Thursday, December 9, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Based on true events and historical figures, Leonora Carrington and Max Ernst, *Leonora in the Morning Light* is an unforgettable story of love, art, and destiny spanning time and borders as the lovers seek to reunite and reclaim their creative power in a world shattered by war.

***My Everything; The Parent I Want to Be The Children I Hope To Raise* by Einat Nathan in Conversation with Cantor, Rabbi Levin Goldberg**

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 12:00 pm via Zoom

The compassionate #1 bestseller in Israel that shows parents how to teach children to be strong and independent by seeing the world through their children's eyes and feel it through their children's hearts.

***Unstoppable: Sigi B. Wilzig's Astonishing Journey from Auschwitz Survivor and Penniless Immigrant to Wall Street Legend* by Joshua M. Greene**

Thursday, March 3, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Unstoppable is the ultimate immigrant story and an epic David-and-Goliath adventure. Sigi's ascent from the darkest of yesterdays to the brightest of tomorrows holds sway over the imagination in this riveting narrative of grit, cunning, luck, and the determination to live life to the fullest.



TSA'AD KADIMA (STEP FORWARD)

This monthly program encourages active participation that leads to action for racial justice. Each session features a specific topic led by an expert guest moderator, and will also connect to a Jewish theme for that month. Prior to each session, participants will have preparation work, such as watching a video, listening to a podcast, reading an essay that illuminates the topic, or responding to reflective journal prompts. In our sessions we will share our advocacy work and reflections, study a Jewish text that connects with the topic, then anticipate our "step forward" for racial justice and tikkun olam.

Tsa'ad Kadima first session: Police Reform (Part 2)

Monday, October 4, 8:15-9:45 pm by Zoom

Saturday, October 30, Shabbat morning sermon delivered by Reverend Erwin Trollinger of Calvary Baptist Church in White Plains



SCHOLARS-IN-OUR-RESIDENCES

Fascinating learning in the comfort of your own home (via Zoom)

Beginning in October and spanning all the way up to Shavuot, the Conservative Movement seminaries and institutions are partnering to offer ScholarStream, a series that will bring our community face-to-face with the brightest and most engaging scholars our movement has to offer.

This year features three distinct arcs of learning that offer an exploration of who we are, where we are in relation to others, and how we move forward in this complicated world. TIC is a proud co-sponsor and members will be able to register for ScholarStream at no cost using a special discount code.

Cultivating Our Relationships

Series #1: Torah Relationships

Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 8:00 pm

Series #2: Ethics

Tuesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 1:00 pm

Defining Our Sacred Spaces

Series #3: The Roots of Conservative Judaism

Tuesdays, December 7, 14, 21 at 8:00 pm

Spring 2022 programs to be announced soon

Visit the TIC website for registration.



CAN I PRAY WHAT I DON'T BELIEVE?

Mondays, October 18 and 25; November 15 and 22, 8:15-9:30 on Zoom with Cantor, Rabbi Shoshi Levin Goldberg

Each session, we will study a different challenging prayer together. We will ask ourselves: What does this text mean to me? What could it mean in the context of Jewish history and the Jewish tradition? Are some prayers worth skipping, or is it possible to reclaim them? Each session stands alone.



TO BE(LIEVE) OR NOT TO BE(LIEVE): TOPICS IN PERSONAL THEOLOGY

Three sessions: October 20, 27 and November 3 from 8:30-9:30 pm with Rabbi Annie Tucker

Does God answer prayer? Who wrote the Torah? How are we to understand the presence of evil in our world? In this series we will explore our own beliefs and questions about the Divine, reflecting on ways to deepen our sense of spiritual connection.



ROSH CHODESH GROUP

Fridays, October 15 (in person); November 12 (virtual); January 7 (in person); February 4 (virtual); April 1 (virtual); May 6 (in person), 10:00-11:00 am; Thursday evening, December 2: Chanukah, time TBA (in person), March 3, time TBD (in person), with Cantor, Rabbi Shoshi Levin Goldberg

Rosh Chodesh means the “head of the month” and marks the beginning of every Hebrew month. Led by Cantor, Rabbi Levin Goldberg, we will learn about the strong Jewish women of our tradition, and see how they still have much to teach us about our lives today, and explore the joys and challenges of our lives through a Jewish lens.



SONG CIRCLES

Sundays, October 24; November 21; December 12; February 13; March 13; May 19 (co-sponsored with Westchester Jewish Center), 7:00-7:55 pm with Cantor, Rabbi Shoshi Levin Goldberg and Cantor Ethan Levin Goldberg

Join us as we build community through song, both by learning new melodies and practicing more familiar tunes. Each session will begin with a brief meditation that will help us set an intention for the week to come.



CHASIDIC CHULENT

Thursdays, November 18 and December 9 from 8:30-9:15 pm with Rabbi Adir Yolkut

Come feed your body and your soul! We'll learn the penetrating and deep thoughts from the Hasidic masters on the weekly Torah portion. We'll sing niggunim (wordless melodies), and if that isn't enough, we'll sate ourselves with some delicious, homemade chulent!



END OF LIFE/AFTERLIFE

Wednesday evenings March 23, March 30, April 6 at 8:30 pm; Friday mornings March 25, April 1, April 8 at 11:00 am with Rabbi Annie Tucker

The recent pandemic has made many of us increasingly aware of our own mortality and the need to plan for end of life well before it is immediately upon us. In this series we will explore some of the halakhic (legal), pastoral, and theological issues related to end of life decision making, bringing both practical advice and Jewish wisdom to bear on this important topic.



TORAH/HAFTARAH/MEGILLAH READING, LEADING SERVICES, AND GABBAI SKILLS

Please contact Cantor, Rabbi Levin Goldberg at s.levingoldberg@templeisraelcenter.org if you are interested in learning how to read Torah, Haftarah or Megillah, leading services or serving our community as Gabbai on Shabbat morning. We are eager to add new readers and leaders! If there is enough interest, Rabbi Levin Goldberg will offer a class.

Support Groups for Parents



Support Group for Parents Raising Children with Special Needs 0-17

This group is a chance for parents to connect with other parents, learn from each other, and share experiences. Topics of discussion will be decided based on the interests of the group (some of the topics discussed this past year were CSE meetings, vacations, siblings and living in pandemic times). Attendance and conversation is all strictly confidential.



Support Group for Parents of Adult Children with Mental Health Challenges

This group is for parents or caregivers of adults with mental health challenges to connect, share experiences and network with people on similar journeys. Topics will be decided based on the interest of the group. Attendance and conversation is all strictly confidential.

For more information please contact Michelle Steinhart at 948-2800 x145 or m.steinhart@templeisraelcenter.org

Learning Institute—Fall 2021

10 sessions, Tuesdays, October 12-December 14 via Zoom



The Collected Stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer 10:00-11:00am with Gloria Goldreich

The short stories of the great Yiddish writer, Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, will be discussed in depth. Special emphasis will be placed on the complexities, both historic and social, of the Eastern European Jewish experience that informed his work. His compelling narratives recreate a vanished world. The text for this class will be “The Collected Stories” by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Time will be allotted for discussion and questions.



The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice 11:30am - 12:30pm with Rabbi Annie Tucker

From political and financial scandals to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of moral and ethical concern. Now more than ever, an understanding of Jewish ethics can help inform our discussions and decisions about critical issues of the day. In this course, created by the Jewish Theological Seminary, we will use classical texts, group discussion, case studies, and “voices from the field” videos to apply traditional Jewish wisdom to contemporary issues.

Registration required.

Cost: \$60: members; \$75: nonmembers