

2025-2026 | 5786

# Oestreich Adult Education Catalog



## Bible BaBoker

*Rabbi Annie Tucker*

**Shabbat mornings from 8:30-9:15 am, in person**

Join us every Shabbat morning before services to study *Parashat HaShavua* (the weekly Torah

Portion). Through lively discussion of the Torah's wonderful—and sometimes challenging!—stories and themes, we will explore the commentary of thinkers both ancient and modern while adding our own voices to the conversation. Come every week or whenever you can make it! All are welcome regardless of background.



## Lay-Led Talmud Class

**Sundays at 8:00 am, in person and 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*

**Meets every other week, on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm (see calendar for updates), via Zoom**

In this 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 in the class, please contact Rabbi Gordon Tucker.



## Parashat HaShavua

*Rabbi Mitch Blank*

**Fridays from 8:15-9:15 am, via Zoom**

The purpose of this class is to develop our own sense of the text through weekly study of the *parashah* right before Shabbat. Each session is a stand-alone class. You can join at any time; and everyone is welcome at any or all of the sessions.

## Sisterhood

## TIC Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

*Sisterhood*

**Monthly, on Fridays, starting 10/31**

**11:00 am-12:00 pm, 10:30 am coffee and conversation (see calendar for other dates)**

TIC women members of all ages and backgrounds share their wisdom and experience, deepening connections to Torah, Jewish customs and values. A different group member leads the discussion each month. All TIC women are welcome to attend. Please contact Susan Banker shankmanbanker@gmail.com with any questions or to RSVP.



## White Plains Wide Elul Night of Learning

**Wednesday, 9/10 from 7:00-9:00 pm, Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains**

Begin preparing for the upcoming holiday season with classes offered by our clergy and rabbis from other area shuls.



## Selichot Services and Study

**Saturday, 9/13 from 8:30-11:30 pm, Westchester Jewish Center, 175 Rockland Avenue, Mamaroneck**

Enter the season with prayer, music, learning, and community as we join together with area Conservative synagogues for Selichot. The evening will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Mijal Bitton, addressing the topic: "The Meaning of the High Holidays at this Moment in Jewish History."



Please see our weekly email for Zoom and livestream links or for updates.



## October 7th Commemorations

As we mark two years since the tragic events of October 7th, we stand together in solidarity and memory.

Sunday, 10/5 at 7:00 pm—**Westchester-Wide Commemoration at TIC** organized by the WJC.

Tuesday, 10/14, approximately 11:15 am—

**Special Shemini Atzeret Yizkor Service and words by Rabbi Annie Tucker**

Sunday, 10/19 at 4:00 pm—**Viewing of the film *OCTOBER 8* followed by pizza and discussion for TIC Teens:** *OCTOBER 8* offers a look at the explosion of antisemitism on college campuses, social media and in the streets of America beginning the day after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Through meticulous investigation, the film uncovers how over decades, Hamas created sophisticated networks in America to permeate U.S. institutions and examines the tsunami of online antisemitism, propaganda, and disinformation unleashed by Iran, China and Russia – with the sole purpose of dividing American society. All are welcome to attend the movie. *TIC Teens: please also join us from 6:00-7:30 pm for a special discussion following the film moderated by Scott Richman, ADL Regional Director and Rabbi Annie Tucker, plus a pizza dinner.*

Sunday, 10/26 at 4:00 pm—**Viewing of the film *October 7: Bearing Witness to the Massacre*:** this feature documentary film explores the history of Gaza and the events of October 7, 2023. Directed by Jesse Schluntz and produced by Justin Kron and Todd Morehead, the film aims to provide context and understanding of the conflict. It features commentary from individuals such as Daniel Gordis, Einat Wilf, and others to shed light on the motivations behind the conflict and the events of October 7. The film utilizes historical perspectives, news reports, interviews, and on-location visuals to paint a comprehensive picture. *Please note that this film contains images of graphic violence. Viewer discretion is advised.*



## Talmudic Insults

*Rabbi Josh Bender*

**Shabbat, 10/25 from 1:30-2:30 pm, in person**

As long as rabbis have socialized and debated, they have engaged in the occasional bit of smack talk. What can the nature and themes of the Talmudic sages' words tell us about them and the world they inhabited? We will read stories about rabbis with bad singing voices, comical eating habits, and more.



## Lunch and Learn

**From 12:00-1:00 pm, in person**

Are you working from home? Have a bit of free time mid-day? Join us to lunch and learn with the TIC clergy. Food is on us—studying together is the real treat!

**Thursday, 11/6:** Rabbi Josh Bender

**Thursday, 1/15:** Rabbi Annie Tucker

**Thursday, 3/12:** Rabbi Annie Tucker

**Thursday, 5/14:** Rabbi Josh Bender



## “Rabbis Got Talent”: Westchester Night of Learning

**Saturday, 11/8 from 7:00-9:00 pm, Beth El Synagogue Center, 1324 North Street, New Rochelle**

Join friends from across the county for this biennial event, a partnership between the Westchester Board of Rabbis and Westchester Jewish Council, which routinely attracts hundreds of participants. This year's theme is meant to showcase the talents, diversity, and collegiality of our area rabbis with sessions focused not only on traditional text study but also art, music, movement, meditation, and more.



## Seasons of the Spirit: A Journey Through the Jewish Holidays

**All classes at 8:15 pm, in person**

Explore the beauty, history, and meaning of the Jewish holidays in this new series, featuring rabbis and cantors who are members at TIC. Whether you're new to Jewish learning or looking to deepen your knowledge, this class will bring the calendar to life with insight, discussion, and personal connection.

**Tuesday, 11/11:** Shabbat with Rabbi Rafi Rank

**Thursday, 12/4:** Chanukah with Rabbi Mark Diamond

**Thursday, 1/29:** Tu B'Shvat with Rabbi Annie Tucker

**Thursday, 2/26:** Purim with Rabbi Geoff Mitelman

**Monday, 3/23:** Pesach with Rabbi Robbie Harris

**Monday, 4/20:** Yom HaShoah/Yom HaZikaron/Yom Ha'Atzmaut with Rabbi Eytan Hammerman

**Wednesday, 5/6:** Shavuot with Rabbi Dan Wigodsky



## **Martin Luther King Day, Jr: Racial Justice Shabbat Speaker** **Shabbat, 1/7, in person and livestream**

Please join us for a special Racial Justice speaker. More details to come.



## **Adult Civil Rights Trip to Georgia and Alabama**

**Sunday, 2/1 – Tuesday, 2/3**

**Information session Sunday, 9/1, at 10:00 am, in person and via Zoom**

Join Rabbi Annie Tucker for a civil rights journey to the American South run by expert tour educators, Etgar 36. Highlights will include services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, a visit to the Equal Justice Initiative's Sculpture Garden and Legacy Museum, a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and more. We will also have the opportunity to meet with individuals who participated in the fight for civil rights and explore Jewish involvement in this important movement.



## **The End of the World As We Know It** **Rabbi Josh Bender**

**Shabbat, 2/21 from 1:30-2:30 pm, in person**

While REM did not sing "It's The End of The World As We Know It" until 1987, our tradition has long sung a similar tune. We will explore the genre of Jewish apocalyptic literature, both inside and outside the traditional Jewish canon. We will compare how our ancestors approached the end of the world and how modern storytellers approach this topic.



## **Pride Month Shabbaton with Rabbi Mike Moskowitz** **Shabbat, 6/5-6/6, in person and livestream**

Celebrate Pride with Rabbi Mike Moskowitz, Scholar-in-Residence for Trans and Queer Jewish Studies at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the world's largest LGBT synagogue, who received ultra-Orthodox ordination while learning at the Mir in Jerusalem and in Lakewood. His new book, "Ancestral Allyship," explores the weekly Torah portion through the lens of interpersonal relations and how we show up for one another.



## **Big Data and Judaism** **Rabbi Josh Bender**

**Wednesdays, 6/10 and 6/17 from 7:30-8:30 pm, via Zoom**

Every choice we make on our phones is automatically logged, categorized and sorted for a profit. This is the reality of the modern consumer. As we wrestle with the ethics of that in our time, we can look back to how Judaism has treated the power of numbers. What is lost when we reduce people to numbers? What do those doing the collecting gain? How do we square humanity being in the image of God with the need to categorize and count people so society can function?



## **Racial Justice Juneteenth Program** **Friday, 6/19**

Please join us as we celebrate Juneteenth together. More details to come.



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

This group provides 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 general family dynamics. Attendance and conversations are confidential. Facilitated by Michelle Steinhart, Director of Learning and Inclusion.



## **Support Group for Parents of Adult Children with Mental Health Challenges**

Enables people to connect, share experiences, and network with one another. Topics will be decided based on the interest of the group. Attendance and conversations are confidential. Facilitated by Brenda Haas, WJCS "Partners in Caring".

**For more information about our support groups please contact:** Michelle Steinhart, Director of Learning and Inclusion, at 914-948-2800 x145 or [m.steinhart@templeisraelcenter.org](mailto:m.steinhart@templeisraelcenter.org).



***Counting Backwards* by Jacqueline Friedland**  
**Wednesday, 9/17 at 7:00 pm, in person**  
Told in two alternating narratives bound by a shocking parallel of issues such as reproductive rights and society's expectations of women and mothers. A compelling reminder that progress is rarely a straight line and always hard-won.



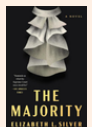
***Anatomy of Exile* by Zeeva Bukai**  
**Sunday, 10/12 at 11:00 am, in person**  
The Abadi family saga begins in Israel right after the 1967 war, when a modern-day Romeo and Juliet story between a Palestinian and a Jew ends in predictable tragedy. The family flees to America to mend, but encounters only more turmoil that threatens to tear the family apart.



***Saving Abigail: The True Story of the Abduction and Rescue of a Three-Year-Old Hostage* by Liz Naftali**  
**Wednesday, 11/12 at 7:00 pm, in person**  
A dramatic story of what happened to an innocent three-year-old child from Kfar Azza on October 7, 2023, and one family member's great efforts to rescue her from Hamas terrorists.



***The Whisper Sister* by Jenifer Brown**  
**Wednesday, 12/17 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**  
An atmospheric coming-of-age story set in Prohibition-era New York, tracing one Eastern European Jewish immigrant family's fortunes and a young girl's journey from the schoolyard to the speakeasy.



***The Majority* by Elizabeth Silver**  
**Wednesday, 1/21 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**  
The book brings us into the sacrifices, heartaches, and complex emotional life of a powerful woman ahead of her time, whose life and work turn out to have supreme stakes.



***I Wanted to be Wonderful* by Lihi Lapid**  
**Sunday, 1/25 at 10:00 am, via Zoom**  
Follows the lives of two women in their first years of marriage and motherhood, each trying to live the happily-ever-after they imagine for themselves. A story of metamorphosis, from independent working woman to mother and the need to face the reality that life is not always a happily-ever-after.



***The Lost Masterpiece* by B. A. Shapiro**  
**Wednesday, 2/25 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**  
A gripping novel full of plot twists that embeds us in a circle of famous painters in late-nineteenth-century Paris, centering on the anguished Impressionist artist Berthe Morisot—the one woman in their midst who never got her due—and the story of Morisot's great-great-great-granddaughter, Tamara Rubin, who has inherited Edouard Manet's *Party on the Seine*, a painting that completely upends her life.



***Searching for Slippers* by Stacy Ross**  
**Wednesday, 3/11 at 7:00 pm, in person**  
Stacy Ross tells her story as a parent of a child with Borderline Personality Disorder. With a raw honesty rarely found in parents of children with mental illness, Stacy takes readers on a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences on her journey to acceptance.



***Promised Lands* by Sharon Musher**  
**Tuesday, 3/17 at 12:30 pm, via Zoom**  
A window into the lives of American Jewish women in both New York City's Upper West Side and Palestine during the interwar period.



***The Trade Off* by Samantha Woodruff**  
**Wednesday, 4/15 at 7:00 pm, in person**  
A brilliant and ambitious young woman strives to find her place amid the promise and tumult of 1920s Wall Street in a captivating historical novel.

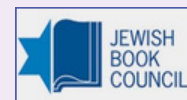


***Mrs. Lilienblum's Cloud Factory* by Iddo Geffen**  
**Wednesday, 5/13 at 7:00 pm, in person**  
A comic novel about a tech startup that turns sand into rain clouds. The story opens with Mrs. Lilienblum discovered drinking a martini in a crater in the Israeli desert. Eli, her adult son, tries to understand what happened to his wacky mother while making sense of his own life.



## Eat Pray Learn Shabbat Dinners & Book Talks

Join us for Friday night Shabbat dinner followed by a book talk by local authors who will share their recent publications. Sponsored in part by *The Jewish Book Council*.



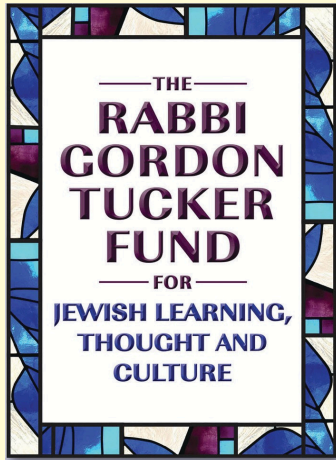
***The Red House* by Mary Morris**  
**Friday, 1/9, in person**  
Award-winning novelist Mary Morris weaves together an unsolved family mystery, a poignant coming-of-age story, and a little-known corner of Italian World War II history in this lyrical novel of family, loss, and ultimately, love.



***Fear No Pharaoh: American Jews, the Civil War, and the Fight to End Slavery* by Richard Kreitner**  
**Friday, 2/6, in person**  
Since ancient times, the Jewish people have recalled the story of Exodus and reflected on the implications of having been slaves. Did the tradition teach that Jews should speak out against slavery and oppression everywhere, or act cautiously to protect themselves in a hostile world? *Fear No Pharaoh* is a dramatic history of how American Jews reckoned with slavery—and fought the Civil War.



***The Incurruptibles: A True Story of Kingpins, Crime Busters, and the Birth of the American Underworld* by Dan Slater**  
**Friday, 3/13, in person**  
In the early 1900s, prior to World War I, on the Lower East Side, Eastern European Jews formed a dense web of crime syndicates which jockeyed for dominance while their family members and neighbors toiled in the unregulated garment industry. But when the notorious murder of a gambler attracted global attention, a coterie of affluent German-Jewish uptowners decided to take matters into their own hands.



## The Rabbi Gordon Tucker Fund for Jewish Learning, Thought, and Culture

Save the date for three incredible programs focused on Jewish identity, culture, and peoplehood.



### Shabbaton with Haviv Rettig Gur

**Shabbat, December 5-6, times to follow**

We welcome Israeli journalist, host of *Ask Haviv Anything* podcast, Middle East analyst at *The Free Press*, and senior analyst for *The Times of Israel*, Haviv Rettig Gur, as he reflects on the impact that October 7th has had on Israelis, Diaspora Jews, and the larger geopolitical landscape.



### An Evening with Sarah Hurwitz

**Sunday, March 8, time to follow**

Join acclaimed author Sarah Hurwitz for a conversation about her new book, *As A Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us*—an urgent exploration of how antisemitism impacts Jewish identity and how Jews can reclaim our sacred tradition.



### Adeena Sussman Cooking Event

**Sunday, June 7, time to follow**

A night of Israeli food and culture awaits as best-selling author, writer, and chef, Adeena Sussman, brings her culinary wisdom—and mouthwatering delicacies!—to our community.