



## Adult Education Schedule

### ***Har Zion After Dark***

Each Wednesday night this year HZT is the place to be for Jewish learning. We will offer authors presenting their books as part of the “Open a Book Open Your Mind” series, speakers and mini-classes. We will begin classes each week at 6:30 PM – the “Open a Book” authors will begin at 7 PM. Light refreshment will be provided.

#### **Wednesday, February 6, 7 PM**

**Open A Book...Open Your Mind author Dick Berman, “The Malchalniks”**

**\$18 in advance/\$25 at the door**

[RSVP here](#)

*Sponsored by Sisterhood and the JFGRS*

#### **Wednesdays, February 13, 20, 6:30-8 PM**

**Rabbi Seth Haaz**

***Honor Your Father and Your Mother: Caring for Sick or Elderly Parents***

As our parents age, most of us find ourselves in the position of providing extensive care. This loving care dominates and characterizes a portion of our lives – it is both a tremendous privilege and a daunting challenge. Rabbinic literature describes caring for sick and aging parents as the most difficult mitzvah to fulfill.

In this two-part class, come and discuss how Judaism presents this mitzvah and encourages dedication and tenderness toward parents, as well as sensitivity toward caregivers. You will be amazed and touched at how thoughtfully our faith tradition handles the practical needs of those involved and affirms the beauty of our sacred relationships at one of the most trying times of our lives. Our sacred texts will naturally draw out our personal experiences, and we will welcome these opportunities to create a space to share openly and receive support.

#### **Wednesday, March 6, 7 PM**

**Open A Book...Open Your Mind author Matt Goldman, “Gone to Dust”**

**\$18 in advance/\$25 at the door**

[RSVP here](#)

*Sponsored by Sisterhood and the JFGRS*

**Wednesday, March 13, 6:30-8 PM**

**Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani**

***Purim Prep: Politics, Persecution and Power in Ancient Persia***

Join Rabbi Shawn as we seek out deeper meanings of Megilat Esther. Too often, this book remains a child's fairy tale not explored and analyzed for the profound meaning it had to the rabbis and can have for us in the 21st century.

**Wednesday, March 27, 6:30-8 PM**

***Passover Cooking with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani***

**Wednesday, April 3, 7 PM**

**Open A Book...Open Your Mind author Tova Mirvis, "The Book of Separation"**

**\$18 in advance/\$25 at the door**

[RSVP here](#)

*Sponsored by Sisterhood and the JFGRS*

**Wednesday, April 10, 6:30-8 PM**

**Noam Zion**

***The Guide to the Perplexed Seder Leader – How to Customize the Haggadah***

The Rabbis expected much of the conductor of a seder – to be a master of ceremonies, a parent educator and a symposium/talk show moderator. The haggadah can be confusing and boring when recited, but it can be empowering when treated as a how-to manual and when one learns how to skip judiciously and supplement for variety and depth. For example, using contemporary artwork we can engage participants in the politics and psychology of the four sons and DAUGHTERS. Many handouts as well as signed copies of the author's two haggadot *A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah* and *A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices* will be available.

**Wednesday, April 17, 6:30-8 PM**

**Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani**

***Passover Prep***

**Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 29**

**6:30-7:30 PM (early session)**

**Dr. Michael Schatz**

***Part 2: History of Jewish Philadelphia***

**7:45-8:45 PM (later session)**

**Rabbi Ira Flax**

***Revolt and Redemption; the Rise of Rabbinic Judaism***

## ***New Learning Opportunities***

### ***Learners Minyan with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani***

**Saturday mornings, 10-11 AM - once a month**

Relaxed, Intimate, Responsive – If these are words you want to associate with a prayer service but are not able to yet, come and try the new Learners Minyan at Har Zion Temple. Join Rabbi Moriah as we explore the service, the siddur and ourselves to make prayer more meaningful.

### ***Talmud with Sarra Lev***

**Mondays, 10:30 AM**

*“One who shames another in public – it is as if he or she has spilled blood.”*

*“Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai says: It is better for a person to throw themselves into a burning oven than to publicly shame another.”*

The rabbinic prohibitions against shaming another often lie in stark contrast to stories of shaming and competition among those very same rabbis. This class begins by examining texts on monetary compensation for shaming (Who must pay? How much? For what kinds of shaming?) and then moves on to examine texts that require shaming another, and stories of rabbis shaming one another.

### ***Exploring Jewish Views of the Afterlife: Traditional and Contemporary Perspectives with Dr. Simcha Raphael***

**Tuesdays, 10-11:30 AM**

**February 12 - *Afterlife in Biblical Tradition: Jacob’s Deathbed and the Cave at Machpelah***

**February 26 - *Afterlife in Rabbinic Tradition: Olam HaBa and the Angel of Death***

**March 12 - *Afterlife in Kabbalistic Tradition: Postmortem Journey of the Soul***

**March 26 - *Afterlife and Renewal of Jewish Death Rituals: Practical Wisdom for Today***

An exploration of Jewish afterlife texts spanning three millennia of history. As travelers through time, we shall enter the worlds of Torah, Talmud, Midrash, Zohar and Hasidic tales investigating diverse ways Jews have understood the enigmatic mystery of death and the world beyond.

Searching for spiritual renewal of traditional teachings, we shall use these texts for reflection and discussion discovering practical guidelines for responding to the human encounter with death - personally, and in our families and communities.



*Simcha Raphael, PhD is the Founding Director of the DA’AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. Ordained as a Rabbinic Pastor by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, he is Adjunct Faculty at LaSalle University and works as a psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia. A Fellow of the Rabbis Without Borders Network, he is author of the groundbreaking Jewish Views of the Afterlife. His website is [www.daatinstitute.net](http://www.daatinstitute.net).*

[Click here for flyer](#)

## **Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Abraham Skorka**

**Tuesday, April 30, 12-1:30 PM**

### ***The Meaning of Interfaith Dialogue – A Perspective from our Sources and History***

Rabbi Skorka will speak about his long friendship with Pope Francis and about the inter-religious dialogue they have conducted over many decades.



*Rabbi Abraham Skorka was born in Buenos Aires. He has a PhD in Chemistry from The University of Buenos Aires, and graduated from Midrahsa Halvrit and the Latin-American Rabbinical Seminary. He was the Rabbi of the Benei Tikva synagogue for 42 years and the rector of the Rabbinical Seminary for 20 years. He has published many articles and books, especially one book called – On Heaven and Earth - which he wrote with the Archbishop of Buenos Aires Cardinal Bergoglio, who is currently Pope Francis. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, Jewish Theological Seminary and Sacred Heart University. He has received the following awards: Distinguished Personality in the field of culture (2015) from the Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires; Figure of Reconciliation (2015) from the Polish Council of Christians and Jews; The Eternal Light Award (2016) from St. Leo University Center for Catholic and Jewish Understanding, and Jan Karski Eagle Award (2017). He is currently University Professor at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, USA, working closely with its Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations.*

## **Shabbat Learning**

### **Teen Dessert and Discussion with Rabbi Shawn**

**Friday evening, 2/22, 4/5, 5/3, 5/31**

**8-9:30 PM**

#### **For our Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students**

Join us for stimulating conversation and delicious desserts. Held in a congregant's home. Please contact the school office, [jfgrs@harziontemple.org](mailto:jfgrs@harziontemple.org), for the address. Refreshments provided.

If you would like to host this program, please contact Rabbi Shawn, [rabbishawn@harziontemple.org](mailto:rabbishawn@harziontemple.org).

### ***Learners Minyan with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani***

**Saturday morning, 2/23, 3/16, 4/13, 5/18**

**10-11 AM**

Relaxed, Intimate, Responsive – If these are words you want to associate with a prayer service but are not able to yet, come and try the new Learners Minyan at Har Zion Temple. Join Rabbi Moriah as we explore the service, the siddur and ourselves to make prayer more meaningful.

### ***Parashat Hashavuah with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani***

**Saturday morning, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1**

**10-11 AM**

Join Rabbi Moriah as she helps to unpack the biblical text using literary methods and rabbinic interpretations. Participate in a class taught by a masterful teacher with a lifetime of experience studying our traditions.

### ***Milton Pomerantz Interactive Torah Study and the Rosh Hodesh Lecture***

**Saturdays at 1 PM**

This participant-led and organized study group wrestles with the meaning of the weekly portion. On the Shabbat of Rosh Hodesh, it is led by Rabbi Shawn.

### ***Parents and Kids Together***

**Once a month, one hour before Mincha, 2/2, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1**

**For 5th Graders and Above**

Are your children looking for a way to do Shabbat but sleep in on Saturday morning? This new Shabbat afternoon program is for parents and children to learn together. We will gather to sit around a table to eat a light Seudah Shlishit (late Shabbat meal), read and discuss some wisdom from rabbinic narrative sources, and enjoy each other's company. We will then join the congregation for Mincha through Havdalah. All are welcome!

### ***Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein***

**Every Shabbat, one hour before Mincha**

## ***Post-Minyan Study***

***Tuesday after 7 AM Services***

**(This class will resume February 5)**

D'var T'filah (a "teaching about prayer"). Hazzan Vogel will offer brief insights into the spiritual dynamics of prayer focusing each time on why prayer is difficult and what we can do about it. Congregants are invited to continue our exploration of this subject over breakfast in the Rudofker Library.

### **Wednesday after 7 AM Services**

**(No class March 6)**

TISCH – remain after Minyan for breakfast and *halacha* study with Rabbi Shawn in the Rudofker Library. We will read the traditional and then connect it to our own current practices.

### **Friday after 7 AM Services**

Men's Club-sponsored study with Rabbi Haaz in his study. Learn new insights to the Torah through wrestling with Rashi's interpretations and our understanding of his reasoning.

## **Mid-Day Adult Ed - Learning through the week**

### **Monday**

***Talmud with Rabbi Sarra Lev, PhD***

**10:30 AM**

*"One who shames another in public – it is as if he or she has spilled blood."*

*"Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai says: It is better for a person to throw themselves into a burning oven than to publicly shame another."*

The rabbinic prohibitions against shaming another often lie in stark contrast to stories of shaming and competition among those very same rabbis. This class begins by examining texts on monetary compensation for shaming (Who must pay? How much? For what kinds of shaming?) and then moves on to examine texts that require shaming another, and stories of rabbis shaming one another. The course asks the overarching question – what is the Talmud trying to tell us about shame/shaming?

*Sarra Lev is an associate professor of rabbinic texts (Talmud and Midrash) at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She has taught adult education in many contexts including synagogues, Jewish Alive & American, the Feminist Center of the American Jewish Congress, Me'ah, and Bat Kol: A Feminist House of Study, which she co-founded.*

### **Rabbi Shawn and the Search for God**

**12 - 1 PM (No class March 4)**

Following up on last year's adventures with philosophy we welcome you to join Rabbi Shawn and his intrepid group of explorers on this year's journey into modern theology. Together we will wrestle with meaning and religious concepts that affect us as individuals and as a people.

### **Tuesday**

***Experience the Joys of Yiddish with Gerry Spector***

**10 AM and 5 PM**

**2/5, 19; 3/5, 19; 4/2, 16, 30; 5/14, 28; 6/11**

You do not have to be able to speak Yiddish to experience the Joys of Yiddish culture. Enjoy the works of Yiddish authors, poets, songs, theater and cinema and incidentally learn the language. This fall the focus will be on the works of Yiddish poet and songwriter, Mordkhe Gebirtig.

***Exploring Jewish Views of the Afterlife:  
Traditional and Contemporary Perspectives  
with Dr. Simcha Raphael***

**10-11:30 AM**

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## **Wednesday**

***Parashat Hashavuah for the Sandwich Generation with Rabbi Shawn***

**11 AM (No class March 6)**

Rabbi Shawn will briefly summarize the parsha. He will then bring one or more contemporary interpretations of the text for us to study and discuss. This class is designed for the "Sandwich Generation" student.

The Sandwich Generation typically refers to those that are sandwiched between the needs of their children and those of their aging parents. However, this group is not limited to these issues. If you are between the ages of 45ish and 65ish, we will focus on topics that are relevant today. Are you dealing with, aging parents, the loss of your parents, family illness, and their health, adult children, and dating just to name a few? What does the Torah teach us about our responsibilities in these areas?

If you want to be a part of a study group to discuss contemporary issues, please join us! We will vary between meeting in the evenings, mornings and in the afternoons. At times, we will have a guest speaker and at other times meetings will be lay-led. If you would like to receive

information about upcoming programs, please email Patty Grobman - [pgrobman@harziontemple.org](mailto:pgrobman@harziontemple.org).

### ***Learning our Liturgy with Dr. Sara H. Cohen***

**11 AM**

**3/6, 13, 20, 27; 4/3, 10**

An in-depth study of the tefillot in our Siddur. By engaging in a close, careful reading of the text of the service we will uncover the meaning, the history and background of our tefillot. Who wrote them, when, why? Why were certain phrases and words used? What feelings do they evoke within us and how do they shape and influence our entire value system and heritage? By truly knowing, understanding and feeling the words, ideas and thoughts inherent in our prayers, our participation in services will become more meaningful and will enhance our spiritual quest to capture the beauty and majesty of our heritage

## **Thursday**

### ***Popular Commentaries on Genesis with Rabbi Ira Flax***

**10 - 11 AM in the Rudofker Library**

We will study the commentaries found in the Hertz Chumash, the Etz Hayim Chumash, and the commentaries of modern biblical scholars to deepen our understanding of the first book of the Bible.

### ***Current Events with Norman Einhorn***

**11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

**2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 5/16**

Ripped from the day's headlines, our multi media classes revolve around issues that are making the news. Whether it's Israeli or American Politics, the class tackles topics that are discussed around the dinner table. Past classes have dealt with BDS, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Anti-Semitism, Immigration, US Elections, Israeli Advocacy and the future of American Synagogues. All opinions are welcome, total respect is required.

## **Friday**

### ***Friday Lunch Bunch with Rabbi Shawn and Norman Einhorn***

**Noon - 1 PM in the Bailis Room**

**3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 4/12**

BYO dairy lunch

A discussion of the *New York Times* Bestseller:

*"Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor"* by Yossi Klein Halevi

Letters to  
My Palestinian  
Neighbor



Yossi Klein  
Halevi

Author of *Like Dreamers*