

# Adult Education 5780 (2019-20)

## *Learning through the Week*

### Monday

**11:45 AM-12:45 PM**

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

The rabbinic prohibitions against shaming another often lie in stark contrast to stories of shaming and competition among those very same rabbis. This class asks the overarching question – what is the Talmud trying to tell us about shame/shaming?

*Rabbi 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. She delights in teaching.*

**1:00-2:00 PM**

#### ***Getting Philosophical with Rabbi Shawn***

On Mondays at 1pm come study Jewish Philosophy with a great group of learners. The class is facilitated by Rabbi Shawn and together we read and discuss articles on topics of philosophy. This year our focus will be on Zionism, Messianism and Jewish Radicalism.

**HZAD - 6:30 or 7 PM - each week (see section below)**

### Tuesday

#### ***D'var T'filah with Hazzan Vogel***

**After 7 AM Minyan** – 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.

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

**September 24, October 29, 10 AM**

You do not have to be able to speak or understand Yiddish to experience the Joys of Yiddish culture. Enjoy Yiddish literature, poetry, folk songs, art songs, theater songs, opera, drama, comedy, movies, and incidentally learn the language.

***Ancestral Journeys: Ancient Biblical Myth and End-of-Life Wisdom in Torah and Midrash with Simcha Raphael***

**November 5, 19, December 3, 17, 10-11:30 AM**

*An exploration of the themes of life, death, loss and transformation in the sacred stories of the Book of Genesis, with contemporary guidelines for living life in our times.*

**NOVEMBER 5**

**Abraham's Calling - From Grief of Emptiness to Fulfillment of Destiny**

In Genesis we read of Abraham's calling to become the father of a nation. Yet, in his lifetime he experienced much loss - death in the family, infertility, uprooted from his home and birthplace. Abraham's story is a reminder that each of us are called into our own unique destiny, often against the background of loss and change in our life.

**NOVEMBER 19**

**Isaac's Midlife Transition - The Akedah as a Near-Death Experience**

What really happened to Isaac when his father brought him to be sacrificed? Through an exploration of both Torah and Midrash we shall look at the Akedah as a near-death experience which led to the spiritual emergence of Isaac

**DECEMBER 3**

**Jacob's Deathbed Finale - Family Drama and Trauma at the End of Life**

The deathbed story of Jacob, at the end of Genesis, offers us wisdom for encountering the reality of death and loss. From Jacob's story we learn to deal with death and the complex family dynamics surrounding dying and mourning with integrity and equanimity.

**DECEMBER 17**

**Carrying Joseph's Bones - Sinai Procession as a Funeral Ritual**

This presentation explores the importance of bringing Joseph's bones out of Egypt, and the Jewish tradition of memory. We shall discover how a sense of connection between the world of the living and the world of the dead has been part of the Jewish experience throughout the ages.

*Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. is Founding Director of DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. Adjunct Professor in Religion at LaSalle University, and a psychotherapist and spiritual director, he is a Fellow of Rabbis Without Borders network, and author of the ground-breaking classic Jewish Views of the Afterlife. His website is [www.daatinstitute.net](http://www.daatinstitute.net)*

**Wednesday**

***Tisch with Rabbi Shawn***

**After 7 AM Minyan** – Join Rabbi Shawn for breakfast and inspirational learning. In this class we will engage in weekly *Halakha* (legal text) study from the Rambam's *Mishneh Torah*. *Good food, great company, and a bisssel of learning too!*

***Siddur Study with Dr. Sara H. Cohen***

**November 6, 13, 20, 27 and December 11 (Spring: 3/4, 11, 18, 25 and 4/1)**

**11 AM**

An in-depth, multi-faceted study of our Shabbat liturgy. By “unpacking” the many layers of meaning and commentary, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of our prayers and an appreciation for their language, ideas and values.

***Parshat Hashavua for the Sandwich Generation with Rabbi Shawn***

**11 AM**

What is the The Sandwich Generation? It typically refers to those of us that are sandwiched between the needs of their children and those of their aging parents. If you are between the ages of 45ish and 65ish, together, 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!

## **Thursday**

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

**10 AM**

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.

***Holiday Learning Series with Rabbi Ira Flax***

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

**9/12, 9/19, 9/26 - All about High Holidays**

**10/17- Sukkot/Simhat Torah**

**12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26 - Hanukkah and winter**

**2/6 - Tu B'Shevat**

**3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 - Passover**

**5/7 - Israel Holidays**

**5/14 - Shavuot**

### ***Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh Group***

**Thursdays (unless otherwise indicated), 7:30 PM - 9 PM**

**Held in the home of congregants**

September 19 meeting at the home of Judy Shrager, topic is Breast Cancer Survivors and Dragon Boats led by Eileen Chopnick

**9/19, 10/31, 11/21, 12/19, 1/23, 2/27, 3/26, 4/30**

Warm, interactive, and challenging discussions related to the holidays and themes of each month are led by group members. For more information, please contact Meryl Littman, please contact Meryl Littman, [merylitt@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:merylitt@vet.upenn.edu) or Janice Katz, [rhk101@hotmail.com](mailto:rhk101@hotmail.com)

### **Friday**

***Men's Club Minyanaires with Rabbi Seth Haaz***

**After 7 AM Minyan** – Men's Club-sponsored study with Rabbi Haaz in his office. Learn new insights to the Torah through wrestling with Rashi's interpretations and our understanding of his reasoning.

## ***Shabbat Learning***

***Joy of Shabbat Speaker Series***

**Friday Night - 8:15pm**



**Friday, November 8**

**Commander Risa B. Simon, United States Navy**

Intelligence Operations Division Chief

Joint Staff Intelligence Directorate

***Jewish Life in Active United States Military Service (Friday after Veterans Day)***

A native of Miami, Florida, CDR Simon graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vanderbilt University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Modern European Studies. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Modern Middle Eastern Studies in 1997 from the University of Michigan and a Master of Military Studies degree from Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia in 2013. CDR Simon has also completed coursework at the University of London, the University of Regensburg, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the American University in Cairo, Middlebury College, Georgetown University, and the Joint Forces Command and Staff College. CDR Simon is fluent in Hebrew, Arabic, and German, and is proficient in Persian-Farsi. CDR Simon is an outdoor enthusiast, voracious bookworm, unabashed Sci-Fi nerd, and animal lover. In her spare time, she runs a sanctuary and rescue for senior and special needs animals ([www.leashesend.org](http://www.leashesend.org)). She lives in Rockville, Maryland where she shares her home with far too many (albeit adorable) cats and dogs.



**Friday, December 13**  
**Dr. Ely Levine**  
**Scholar-in-Residence**  
**Topic TBD**



**Friday, January 10**  
**Allyson Zacheroff**  
**Interfaith**



**Friday, March 13**  
**Author - Itzhak Brook**

Author of the book *"In the Sands of Sinai, a Physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War"*  
A presentation to your Jewish community about the historical perspectives of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and its long-term effects on the Israeli society and the peace process, as well as my personal experiences as a medic in the Six-Day War and a battalion physician in Yom Kippur War. My lecture includes discussion of the challenges of preserving one's humanity and ethical values during wartime; caring for wounded enemy soldiers; dealing with fear, anxiety and PTSD; religious beliefs' effects on coping with the war; and experiencing the painful cost of war.

Dr. Brook is a speaker for the Israeli embassy in DC

(<http://www.israeemb.org/washington/Speakers-Guide/Society-and-Politics/Pages/Itzhak-Brook.aspx> )

***Teen Dinner, Dessert and Discussion with Rabbi Shawn***

Friday evening, 9/20, 11/1, 12/6, 1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 6/5

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).

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

Saturdays, September 14, 28, October 12

10-11 AM

Join Rabbi Moriah as she helps to unpack the biblical text using literary methods and rabbinic interpretations.

***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 Minha

9/21, 10/12, 11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/1, 2/29, 3/28, 5/2, 6/6

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 Minha through Havdalah. All are welcome!

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

Every Shabbat, one hour before Minha

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

Join us MONDAY NIGHTS this year, as HZT will be the place for Jewish learning. Check out all of our offerings!

### **Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani and Ariela Barlas**

#### **September 16 (first class)**

*What's Cookin'?*

11/11

12/9

1/6 – Tu B'Shevat

2/10 – Purim

3/16 – Passover

5/11 – Shavuot

### **Dr. Ely Levine**

#### **September 23 (first class)**

*Reel Torah*

*The Ten Commandments! Noah! Monty Python's Life of Brian! The Prince of Egypt!* These blockbuster movies have little in common other than that they are Bible movies. Come see how these movies and others use the Bible as a vehicle to communicate a message, and how the way of doing so has changed over the 120 years of the movie biz. You'll laugh, you'll cry; we'll serve popcorn!

9/23 – Overview and Introduction

11/18 – Ten Commandments (1956)

12/16 – Prince of Egypt (1998)

1/20 – Story of Ruth (1960)

2/24 – One Night with the King (2006)

3/23 – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (1999)

4/6 – King of Kings (1927)

5/18 – Life of Brian (1979)

### **Open Studio with Ariela Barlas**

#### **October 7 (first class)**

*Creative Space*

11/25

1/27

3/30

5/4

## **Theatre Ariel**

**October 28, 7 PM**

### ***The Ethics of The Fathers aka The Gangster and the Grandpa***

Dogole Chapel

A performance of *The Ethics of the Fathers aka The Gangster and the Grandpa* written and performed by Jesse Bernstein.

"Beginning in 1950, and continuing for nearly a decade, my grandfather was the doctor to the head of the Jewish Mafia in New Jersey..." Drawing on the stories of an unlikely friendship and the teachings of Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), this powerful one-person show explores morality, legacy, and Jewish identity in America. The performance will be followed by a conversation with actor/playwright Jesse Bernstein lead by Theatre Ariel Artistic Director, Deborah Baer Mozes.

Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0osDoI\\_T5dY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0osDoI_T5dY)

## **“Open A Book, Open Your Mind”**

*Sponsored by Sisterhood and the JFGRS’*

**Admission is \$18 unless otherwise noted**

To make a reservation: <https://harziontemple.ticketleap.com/>

**Monday, November 4, 7 PM**

Karen Treiger, “My Soul Is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story”

**Monday, December 2, 7 PM**

Alan Zweibel, “A Field Guide to the Jewish People”

**Monday, January 13, 7 PM**

Edward Berenson, “The Accusation”

**Monday, February 3, 7 PM**

Jack Fairweather, “The Volunteer”

**Monday March 2, 7 PM at JFCS Brodsky Center**

Dorice Horenstein, “Moments of the Heart”

**Tuesday, March 17, 4 PM with the JFGRS (Free)**

Jordan Gorfinkel, “Passover Haggadah: Graphic Novel”



**Monday, April 20, 11:30 AM - Sisterhood Luncheon (\$25)**

Jenna Blum, "The Lost Family"

Susan Jane Gilman, "Donna Has Left the Building"

**Wednesday, April 22, 7 PM**

Barry S. Wimpfheimer, "The Talmud"

**Thursday, April 23, 7 PM**

Jessica Yellin, "Savage News"