

Tuesday mornings

Perek Yomi – Sefer Aggadah

■ Every other Tuesday, 10:30–11:30 am, beginning October 20)

In this class, conducted entirely in Hebrew, we will read through Bialik and Ravnitzky's classic anthology of Rabbinic legends: *Sefer Aggadah*. The discussions often move into other fascinating topics. If you are an advanced Hebrew speaker, join us!

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Saul Lehman

Iyyun Tefillah: In-depth Prayer Study

■ Every other Tuesday, 11:30 am–12:30 pm, beginning October 20)

Would you like to know what our prayers really mean? This course will take an in-depth look at the meaning of the words, the beauty of the poetry as well as the development of the liturgy from a historical vantage point. Attention will be paid to the core prayers of the *Shaharit* (morning) service.

INSTRUCTOR: Cantor Brian J. Mayer

Tuesday evenings

Talmud Study – Tractate *Hullin*, Chapter Eight

■ 7:30–9:00 pm, beginning October 20

The practice of not eating milk and meat products together is a well-known tradition among Jews. But how did the practice develop? The Torah stipulates that “You shall not cook a kid in its mother’s milk.” That’s all it says! It says nothing about eating another animal’s flesh with goat’s milk, nothing about eating cold cheese and cold meat together, and nothing about waiting between the two types of foods. What about animals which don’t produce milk, such as fish and fowl? Are they included in the prohibition? The rabbis discuss all these subjects in Chapter Eight of

Tractate *Hullin*, which we will study this year. You are welcome to join this study group, whether you have studied Talmud previously or not. We use English-annotated translations of the texts, in addition to the original material. If you want to learn how the rabbinic process works, widening the application of the Torah’s teachings, this is the tractate to study! *Ta Sh’ma!* Come and learn!

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Wayne Franklin

God Talk: Crafting a Modern Theology

■ 7:30–9:00 pm, beginning October 20

Did God create the universe as we know it, or is the Bible simply an example of creative myth? What actually happened on Mount Sinai and how might this Revelation impact your life? If God is a benevolent deity, why is there so much suffering in our world? What is our modern definition of “redemption,” and can we possibly conceive what might occur at the “end of days?” What is your metaphor for God?

If these questions interest you and if you are searching for a theology which takes into account all of the complicating factors of our modern world, then this is the course for you!

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Joel Seltzer

The Congregational Choral Club

■ 7:30–9:00 pm, beginning October 20

Would you enjoy singing Jewish choral music in an informal ensemble? Then Choral Club is for you. Come experience the joy of learning and performing songs for Hanukkah in Hebrew and Yiddish. This semester will be devoted to preparing pieces to be performed in our Temple Hanukkah party on Sunday, December 13th.

Note: The ability to read music is not required, nor are there any auditions. Everyone is welcome!

INSTRUCTOR: Cantor Brian J. Mayer

תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם

The Study of Torah Exceeds All

— MISHNAH PEAH 1:1

Jewish Families in Film

■ 7:30–10:00 pm, beginning October 20

Students in this course will discuss six wonderful films, each of which offers a different vision of the Jewish family. This year, we’ll focus on the relationship between parents and children. In movies classic and modern, within the realms of comedy, drama, adventure, and romance, we’ll learn how Jewish films depict the conflicts, debts, hopes, and affections shared across the generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Raphael Shargel

INTRODUCING A NEW COURSE!

Rikudei Am: Instructions in Israeli Dance

■ 7:30–9:30 pm, beginning October 20

Israeli folk dance is a wonderful way to explore the cultural, religious, and musical traditions of the Jewish people in an energetic and social environment. Enjoy learning dances from a variety of cultural influences!

Each session will consist of two parts: Part 1: 7:30–8:25; emphasis on instruction for beginners or novice. Part 2: 8:35–9:30; more advanced instruction and request dancing. Come to part 1, part 2, or both!

Please wear comfortable shoes and light, comfortable clothing

Special Note: This eight-session course will cost \$25 per participant regardless of whether you attend only the first or second session. This will help us to secure the talents of our wonderful instructor Sue Rose.

INSTRUCTOR: Sue Rose

Thursday evenings

Parsing the Language of the Torah

■ 7:30–9:30 pm, beginning October 22

This class will introduce students to the essential elements of Biblical grammar and the trope system. This class will focus on the grammatical aspects of trope (though there will be some coverage of chanting and materials will be provided to enable students to learn to chant), and the essential elements of Biblical grammar. No previous knowledge of grammar or trope will be assumed, but basic Hebrew reading skills are essential.

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Bob Pelcovits

What You Never Learned in Hebrew School: An Introduction to Biblical Criticism

■ 7:30–9:00 pm, beginning October 22

As children, most of us went to Hebrew school and learned Bible stories as traditionally told and interpreted. Puzzling contradictions in the biblical text were either ignored or skated over.

This course will address some of the confusing discrepancies in biblical accounts of the Creation, the Flood, the Ten Commandments, and many other stories of which the Torah texts preserves more than one version. We shall see how discrepancies between different versions reflect the interests and agenda of their original authors, and how modern scholarship on “Who Wrote the Bible” arose as a result.

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Judith Romney-Wegner

A NEW COURSE FOR PARENTS AND TEENS (9TH–12TH GRADE)

Issues for Jewish Teenagers and Their Parents

■ 7:00–8:30 pm, beginning October 22

Each session will begin with an introduction for parents and teens together, followed by separate discussions on a given topic (teens alone, parents alone!) Then we will conclude with shared conversation between parents

Tuesdays

REGISTRATION: October 20, at 7:00 pm
COURSE DATES: October 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8

Thursdays

REGISTRATION: October 22, at 7:00 pm
COURSE DATES: October 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19; December 3, 10

and their teens. Attendance at all three programs is highly encouraged.

OCTOBER 22 – **You’re Driving Me Crazy!!!**

Driving and Responsibility – Jewish perspectives regarding the rights and responsibility of a new driver, contracts between parents and teens, and issues surrounding driving under the influence.

NOVEMBER 19 – **Building Healthy Relationships (Yes, this means SEX!)** Conversations about mutual respect, peer pressure, parent-teen communication, and Jewish perspectives of healthy intimate relationships.

DECEMBER 3 – **Choosing the Right College: Hillel, Chabad, Koach, and Gap Years, Oh My!** A joint program with the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, together we will learn about the admissions process, Jewish life on campus, and how to put your personal priorities in order when choosing a university.

Special reduced fee of \$25 per family for the course.

FACILITATOR: Miriam Abrams-Stark

COURSE FEES

Full Course \$25 (\$15 seniors / students)

Consider becoming a Patron (\$144, which entitles two people to a full year of courses), Sponsor (\$72, which entitles one person to a full year of courses), or Double Chai (\$36), Chai (\$18) donor, or any sum you are willing to contribute.

Your donations allow us to continue to offer this outstanding program!

Text and Art: Especially for Artists!

■ 7:30–9:00 pm; text study on October 22nd, presentations on November 5

This course is specially designed for artists of all media, including painters, sculptors, calligraphists, ceramicists, embroiderers, and calligraphers. In the first session, participants will study The Creation narrative of Genesis 1 with text scholar and teacher Marcia Kaunfer; alongside visual artist and professional illustrator Steven Subotnick. During the following two weeks, participants will create original artwork inspired by that discussion, and return to the class to share, present, and respond to each other’s art pieces.

FACILITATORS: Marcia Kaunfer (text teacher) and Prof. Steven Subotnick (artist)

Jewish Readers Theatre Play Production

■ 7:00–9:00 pm, beginning October 22

We invite theatre lovers to join us in producing plays. At the end of the six-week session, a staged reading of the plays will be performed before an audience. Please join us to participate as an actor, a helper, or simply an audience member at our performance on Thursday evening, December 3rd!

INSTRUCTOR: Florence Markoff, Bookmark Productions

Friday mornings

Friday Morning *Parashat Ha-Shavua*

■ 7:45–8:35 a.m., every Friday in the Sisterhood Lounge, beginning October 16 with *B’reishit*

This is a breakfast-study session, which meets Friday mornings to accommodate work schedules. The course will study highlights of the upcoming Shabbat Torah reading – the Weekly Portion (*Parashat Ha-Shavua*). The group will have an opportunity to raise questions and share interpretations on the text. Participants are welcome to daven in the Chapel at 7 am, before the breakfast and study.

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Alvan H. Kaunfer



COMING THIS SPRING SEMESTER

With multiple possible meanings for mitzvah, Jews today can locate where they stand with respect to Jewish

tradition in all its complexities. They can also find new entryways to living a more engaged Jewish life.

To talk about mitzvah in the lives of Conservative Jews today, we need an expanded definition of the term. To find that definition, we need to examine

- Torah texts
- Rabbinic texts that expand and explain the Torah
- Texts of Jewish thought and scholarship of modernity and post-modernity
- New mitzvah practice by social innovators in the Jewish community
- The personal reflections and thoughts of individual Jews and specific communities

These lessons are meant to be a blend of personal reflection (journaling), group discussion, text study (both facilitated by the teacher and *b’hevruta*, in learning pairs), presentations by community members, and actual mitzvah experiences.

If you think you might be interested in participating in this important nationwide event, **we encourage you to come to our special Mitzvah Initiative Shabbaton on the weekend of January 8th and 9th.** Please feel free to contact Rabbis Franklin and Seltzer, Cantor Mayer, or Director of Congregational Learning Miriam Abrams-Stark for more information.

Please note that participation in the Mitzvah Initiative is free of charge!

Friday mornings continued

INTRODUCING A NEW COURSE

The Study and Practice of God Wrestling: What It Means to Love God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Might

■ 8:00–9:00 am; October 23, November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18, January 8 and 22

This is a class for individuals who

- already have a relationship with God and want to deepen and strengthen that relationship and do so with a group of like and unlike-minded seekers
 - who are wrestling with God but may not know it
 - who are hungry for a connection with God but struggle with intellectual and/or psychological obstacles

In this class we will make use of structured mind-body practices, guided and unguided meditations, Jewish texts and texts from other wisdom traditions, and chanting to develop our relationship with the Source of All Life.

INSTRUCTOR: David Stern

Please contact David Stern, Psy.D., if you are interested in participating in this class (djs@thinking-heart.com or 401-274-2844).

Other offerings

YadBYad

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Yad B’Yad – Partners in Learning

Partners in Learning reaches out to people interested in enhancing their Judaic knowledge and sharpening the skills of Jewish learning. This program matches adults with professional and volunteer mentors who arrange individualized times, place, and personal learning opportunities, which include:

- Learning the skills of Shabbat home
- Prayer skills
- Preparing for a Brit/Baby naming
- Saying Kaddish
- Reading Hebrew
- Taking an aliyah
- Making a Kosher home

For scheduling and fees, contact the coordinator, Miriam Abrams Stark, at the Temple office.

On-Line Learning

Join people from around the world and study Judaism as you never have before. The Jewish Theological Seminary offers several stimulating on-line courses which include class “discussions” on the JTS bulletin board,

Instructor’s “office hours” on-line, and technical support. Course titles and registration available on line at www.jtsa.edu. *There is a special fee for these courses.*

Purim Spiel

Celebrate Purim in a special way: be a part of the Purim Spiel – the musical comedy extravaganza that is a specialty at Temple Emanu-El! We need actors, dancers, singers, instrumentalists, costumers, set designers, lighting and sound specialists, and stage crew. The performance will be on February 27th following the Megillah reading. Check the *Kol* for rehearsal schedule and other details.

DIRECTOR: Wendy Garf Lipp

Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot Program

Join us on Tuesday, May 18, for a traditional *Shavu’ot* evening study session and receive the Torah anew as we enter the holiday of the “giving of the Torah.”

Special Lag B’Omer Concert and BBQ

This May 2nd event features the Israeli band “The Shuk.” Check out their website at www.the-shuk.com.

The Koffler Bornstein Families Institute of Jewish Studies

Donors to the Institute

The Institute of Jewish Studies gratefully acknowledges the generosity of many members of the community whose support makes our programs possible.

V'elleh Ya'am'du al Ha-b'racha.

“And may these be blessed” for their support during the past year. Contributions for 2008–2009 are acknowledged below:

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In recognition of their generous support of the Temple's Capital Campaign, the Institute has been named the Koffler Bornstein Families Institute of Jewish Studies. We still need your ongoing support, however, to continue our fine programming.

Anyone who desires to support the Koffler Bornstein Families Institute of Jewish Studies through financial contributions or by working on our committee should contact Temple Emanu-El at 331-1616.

Chai (\$18)

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The Koffler Bornstein Families

Institute of
Jewish Studies



Temple Emanu-El
Providence, Rhode Island

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Registration for Institute courses is October 20 and 22, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.
Early arrival at registration is encouraged.
Call the Temple office at 331-1616 for more information.



Temple Emanu-El
99 Taft Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Course Instructors and Coordinators

Rabbi Wayne M. Franklin – Senior Rabbi,
Temple Emanu-El

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer – Rabbi Emeritus, Temple
Emanu-El

Marcia Kaunfer – Teacher mentor, Jewish Com-
munity Day School of Rhode Island; *TaNakh*
curriculum writer and consultant for Jewish
Theological Seminary

Rabbi Saul Leeman – Former instructor in
Bible, Providence College; translator on Com-
mittee of New JPS Tanakh translation

Florence Markoff – Performer, speaker, and
radio personality noted for her program on
words, phrases, and expressions: “There’s a
Word for It”

Cantor Brian J. Mayer – Cantor, Temple Emanu-
El; and associate professor at the Cantorial
Program of Hebrew College

Prof. Bob Pelcovits has *learned* Torah for many
years and has also taught Torah reading classes
during previous Institute sessions. He is a
professor of physics at Brown University.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer – Rabbi, Temple Emanu-El

Prof. Raphael Shargel – associate professor of
English at Providence College, where he teaches
literature and film. His audio course, “Under-
standing Movies: The Art and History of Film”
has recently been released on compact disc.

Miriam Abrams-Stark – Director of Congrega-
tional Learning, Temple Emanu-El

Dr. David Stern – psychologist, teacher, and
consultant living and working in Providence.
A life-long student of mystical theology, he dis-
covers with his clients the ways in which we are
always in and out of relationship with the
Source of life.

Prof. Steven Subotnick – Artist, animator, and
teacher

Prof. Judith Romney Wegner – Retired profes-
sor of Judaic studies and author of *Chattel or
Person? The Status of Women in the Mishnah*.

Sue Rose has been teaching Israeli and Inter-
national Folk Dance for many years in the Boston
area, the San Francisco Bay area, as well as in
New York City.

The Koffler Bornstein Families Institute of Jewish Studies

Welcome!



Ta Sh'ma! Come and learn! Please take a look through our courses and special programs for 2009–2010. You will find Bible, Talmud, theology, music, dancing, film, prayer, art, and more. There are classes for beginners, advanced, and just plain ordinary folk. There are classes on weekday evenings, on weekdays, and special programs on

selected *Shabbatot*. Our programs are open to our congregation as well as the community at large. So if there is someone who you think might be interested in taking a course with us, please bring them along! We are thrilled to offer all of these wonderful learning opportunities to you, and it is all within your reach.

This year we are again privileged to have the wonderful guidance and wisdom of our Institute committee chair, Michael Goldenberg. Under Michael's excellent leadership our institute has continued to grow, succeed, and maintain our high standards for excellence. Indeed, last year we were honored by the readers of the *Jewish Voice and Herald* as “The Best Place for Jewish Study,” and we invite you to take full advantage of our wonderful program!

During our Spring Semester, the Institute will be proud to offer an exciting, new, nationwide curriculum designed by Chancellor Arnold Eisen of the Jewish Theological Seminary. This curriculum is called **The Mitzvah Initiative**, and it is designed to be a learning journey for our entire community. We will break participants into small groups where together they will explore sacred and secular texts about the concept of “mitzvah.” Engage in personal conversations about the meaning of mitzvah in modern Judaism and begin the important process of defining mitzvah for a new generation of Jews. Stay tuned for more information about this incredible opportunity for personal and communal growth!

These are just a few of the opportunities for learning that are described in this booklet. **Come see us at registration at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 20, or Thursday, October 22.** Volunteers will be there to help you find the perfect class that will match your personal concerns and interests.

Looking forward to another wonderful year of Jewish learning,

RABBI JOEL SELTZER
jseltzer@teprov.org
401 331-1616



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