

TEMPLE ISRAEL CENTER OF WHITE PLAINS

# THE OESTREICH ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

2009-2010 / 5770



*Courses on Hebrew Language, Bible, Synagogue Skills,  
Jewish Music, Jewish History, Jewish Thought  
and More*

**Also Including:**

**The Learning Institute**

**Shabbat Programs**

**Me'ah**

**Florence Melton Mini-School**

Everyone knows that when Hillel was asked to sum up Jewish teaching while standing on one foot, he said, “What is hurtful to you, do not do to your neighbor.” But then he added this: “The rest is commentary. Go and learn.” We are never free from that mandate. It is the essence of our obligation and commitment as Jews to learn. Only then can the broad generality of “Love your neighbor” become focused, rooted in the accrued wisdom of our tradition, in how we understand our place in it, and in the future to which we aspire. We are delighted to be able to offer to our community many diverse opportunities to “go learn”—from Hebrew language, and Bible and Talmud, to contemporary Jewish literature, spirituality, and politics. Select one or more of these opportunities and seize it. You will do Hillel proud, and will, best of all, discover the joy of learning with peers.

Rabbi Gordon Tucker

**Adult Education Committee:**

Madeline Dannis, Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum Joan Falk, Rabbinic Intern Eytan Hammerman, Herbert Horn, Irene Kohn, Cantor Jacob Mendelson, Marge Moline, Fran Rosenzweig, Clifton Rothman, Rhonda Rubin, Rabbi Dina Shargel, Adrian Strizhak, Rabbi Gordon Tucker.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Holiday Preparation.....	1
	A. Hagigat Hanukkah	
	B. Passover Workshops	
II.	Hebrew	
	A. Basic Hebrew – Crash Course .....	2
	B. Beginning Hebrew – Crash Course Continues! – <b>NEW!</b>	
	C. Intermediate Hebrew Reading Comprehension	
	D. Intermediate Conversational Hebrew	
III.	The Learning Institute .....	3
	A. Follow My Footprints	
	B. The Book of Genesis	
IV.	Courses in Bible and Classical Rabbinic Texts.....	
	A. Tuesday Night Mishnah with Rabbi Tucker	
	B. Mid-Town Talmud Class with Rabbi Tucker	
	C. Text Study with Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum – <b>NEW!</b>	
	D. Parashat Ha-Shavua with Rabbi Shargel	
	E. Understanding the Siddur with Rabbi Shargel	
	F. Breakfast and Learn (Part II) with Rabbi Shargel	
	G. Seudah Shelishit	
V.	Enhancing Synagogue Skills.....	6
	A. Independent Study in Synagogue Skills	
	B. Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah	
VI.	Study and Discussion of Contemporary Issues .....	6
	A. Money, Ownership, Poverty and Wealth with Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum – <b>NEW!</b>	
	B. Israeli Culture of Today – Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum – <b>NEW!</b>	
VII.	Visiting Lecturer from JTS: The Rabbi's Guide to Christianity – <b>NEW!</b> .....	7
VIII.	Jewish Music Study: 4 Part Choir .....	7
IX.	Jewish History, Philosophy and Thought.....	8
	A. History of Jewish Prayers – <b>NEW!</b>	
	B. Abraham Joshua Heschel	
	C. Contemporary Jewish Thought	
X.	Scholar-In-Residence Weekend .....	9
XI.	Me'ah .....	9
XII.	Florence Melton Mini-School .....	10
XIII.	Derekh Torah: The Way of Torah – <b>NEW!</b> .....	11

# I. HOLIDAY PREPARATION

## A. HAGIGAT HANUKKAH

This Hanukkah Celebration will include activities for all ages, including adult education workshops led by our rabbis and other teachers. Please go to [www.templeisraelcenter.org](http://www.templeisraelcenter.org) in November for more information.

Instructor: TIC Clergy  
Schedule: Sunday, December 13  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

## B. PASSOVER WORKSHOPS

### 1. **The Passover Haggadah: The Story Behind *Dayeinu*, *Echad Mi Yodea*, and *Chad Gadya***

This one-session course will explore these three Seder songs, some of their midrashic roots, and their history and meaning.

Instructor: David Arnow, author of *Creating Lively Passover Seders*  
Schedule: Tuesday, March 23, 8:15 PM

### 2. **Understanding the Haggadah with Rabbi Shargel – The Role of Wine at the Passover Seder**

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel  
Schedule: Sunday, March 7  
First Session: 9:45 AM  
Second Session: 11:15 AM  
Room 8

To register, please e-mail Rabbi Shargel at [rabbishargel@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishargel@gmail.com) or call (914) 948-2800 ext. 121.

### 3. **Passover Tunes – Course with CD – *NEW!***

This new course is designed to enliven your sedarim with new melodies. Participants will receive a CD for home use.

Instructor: Cantor Jack Mendelson  
Schedule: Dates to be announced

## II. HEBREW

### A. BASIC HEBREW – CRASH COURSE

You can learn Hebrew in 5 easy lessons! Following a curriculum and materials created by the National Jewish Outreach program, these courses have given thousands of people a reading knowledge of the Hebrew language.

Please call the TIC office at 914-948-2800 ext. 100 to put your name on the list.

Instructor: Rabbinic Intern Eytan Hammerman  
Schedule: Mondays, October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16  
7:30 PM

### B. BEGINNERS' HEBREW – CRASH COURSE CONTINUES - NEW!

If you have taken the Crash Course, this continuation is for you! Following a curriculum and materials created by the National Jewish Outreach program, these courses have given thousands of people a reading knowledge of the Hebrew language.

Please call the TIC office at 914-948-2800 ext. 100 to put your name on the list.

Instructor: Rabbinic Intern Eytan Hammerman  
Schedule: Five Mondays, beginning January 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM

### C. INTERMEDIATE HEBREW READING COMPREHENSION

This continuing course works on reading comprehension and grammar. This year, we will continue to read simple newspapers, and other texts, but the class is now being conducted in Hebrew. If you have not previously been in this course, you may certainly enter, but please consult Rabbi Tucker first.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker  
Schedule: Sundays from 9:30-10:30 AM, ongoing

### D. INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW

This class is led by TIC Religious School teacher, Tamar Honig. For more information, please email Susan Galla at [s.galla@templeisraelcenter.org](mailto:s.galla@templeisraelcenter.org). There is a fee for the class.

Instructor: Tamar Honig  
Schedule: Wednesdays, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, beginning October 14

### III. THE LEARNING INSTITUTE

#### A. FOLLOW MY FOOTPRINTS

An in-depth study of changing patterns in Jewish family life through the generations, as expressed in short fiction and essays by distinguished writers. Authors range from Yiddish writers such as Shalom Aleichem and Chaim Grade, to chroniclers of the American immigrant experience, including Henry Roth and Abraham Cahan among others, and contemporary writers such as Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick and Anne Roiphe. The text, which students are encouraged to have on hand, is "Follow My Footprints", an anthology edited by Sylvia Barack Fishman. It will be on sale at registration for the course.

Text: Follow My Footprints, edited by Sylvia Barack Fishman.

Instructor: Gloria Goldreich  
Novelist, Critic and Lecturer

Time: 9:30 -10:45 AM

#### B. THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The first book of the Torah contains the timelessly rich narratives of creation, human corruption and reconstruction, and the Israelite ancestors, as well as the long, masterful story of Joseph and his brothers. We will be studying these stories with the help of Robert Alter's superb translation and commentary, entitled "Genesis: Translation and Commentary".

Text: Genesis: Translation and Commentary, by Robert Alter, W. W. Norton and Company

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Time: 10:50 AM – 12:00 PM

Tuesdays in the Reception Hall at Temple Israel Center  
October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24;  
December 1, 8, 15, 22; January 5, 12

Spring dates to be announced. Please note: there are fees for these classes.

## **IV. COURSES IN BIBLE AND CLASSICAL RABBINIC TEXT**

### **A. MISHNAH TRACTATE SHABBAT**

This year, we are continuing our study of Tractate Shabbat, which deals with all aspects of the observance of Shabbat. We refer liberally to the Hebrew text, but we mostly read in English translation, and the class is entirely conducted in English. Even if you have not previously been with us, you are cordially welcome to join this lively study fellowship.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker  
Schedule: Alternate Tuesdays, beginning September 8th  
8:15 PM

*There are occasional exceptions to this schedule  
– check with Rabbi Tucker*

### **B. MIDTOWN TALMUD CLASS**

In this class, we will be studying Tractate Rosh Hashanah, which deals with the month-by-month determination of the Jewish calendar, some important aspects of the Jewish court and its authority, and, of course, the observances surrounding Rosh Hashanah. In addition to the very interesting insight provided by these texts into the culture of Rabbinic Judaism, this study will also bring us into discussion and consideration of important elements of Jewish theology.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker  
Schedule: Alternate Thursdays, beginning September 24th  
Lunch at 12:30 PM followed by session at 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Call Susan Galla at the synagogue, 914-948-2800, X112, if you are interested. The fee for this class will be determined by the number of participants.

### **C. TEXT STUDY**

#### **WITH RABBI TAMAR ELAD-APPELBAUM - NEW!**

Study of classical texts with Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum, specific text to be announced at the first session.

Instructor: Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum  
Schedule: Alternate Mondays, beginning October 5,  
through December 28  
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

## **D. PARASHAT HA-SHAVUA: THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION WITH RABBI SHARGEL**

Each Sunday morning of this mini-course, we will focus on central ideas in the weekly Parashah, read commentaries and share insights of our own with other adult learners. Join us for some Torah study and a bagel breakfast. Each class will cover a different Torah portion, so please come to one, some or all classes! Course offered fall and spring.

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel

Schedule: Fall Session: October 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22

9:45 AM

Winter Session: January 10, 24, 31; February 7

11:15 AM

Room 8

To register, please e-mail Rabbi Shargel at [rabbishargel@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishargel@gmail.com) or call (914) 948-2800 ext. 121.

## **E. UNDERSTANDING THE SIDDIR WITH RABBI SHARGEL**

Each Sunday morning of this mini-course, we will examine the structure and content of the Shabbat morning service. Join us for our weekly study and enjoy a bagel breakfast. Course offered fall and winter.

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel

Schedule: Fall Session: October 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22

11:15 AM

Winter Session: January 10, 24, 31; February 7

9:45 AM

Room 8

To register, please e-mail Rabbi Shargel at [rabbishargel@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishargel@gmail.com) or call (914) 948-2800 ext. 121.

## **F. BREAKFAST-AND-LEARN**

Jewish ritual and practice in the Shulhan Arukh (Code of Jewish Law) and in the Conservative movement today

Unit 1: Setting a spiritual tone to the day

Unit 2: Jewish mourning practices

Instructor: Rabbi Dina Shargel  
Schedule: Alternate Friday mornings at 7:50 AM, Room 19  
October 16, 30; November 13; December 4, 18\*  
January 8, 22; February 5; March 5, 19;  
April 9, 23; May 7, 21; June 4, 18

\*Start time will be delayed due to longer service for Shaḥarit for Hanukkah/  
Rosh Hodesh. To register, please e-mail Rabbi Shargel at [rabbishargel@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishargel@gmail.com)  
or call (914) 948-2800 ext. 121.

### **G. SEUDAH SHELISHIT**

An informal learning program conducted throughout the year, including the summer at homes around the Community, while enjoying the third Shabbat meal and Minhah. Schedule to be announced.

## **V. ENHANCING SYNAGOGUE SKILLS**

### **A. INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Would you like to learn to read Torah or chant a Haftarah? Brush up on your synagogue skills? Our clergy is always willing to assist you. Just call Rabbi Gordon Tucker or Cantor Jacob Mendelson.

### **B. ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

Are you an adult who did not have the opportunity to celebrate becoming a Bat/Bar Mitzvah? Would you like to have this experience? If so, please contact Rabbi Tucker 948-2800, ext. 115.

## **VI. STUDY AND DISCUSSION OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES – *NEW!***

### **A. MONEY, OWNERSHIP, POVERTY AND WEALTH**

After a year of economic crisis, we will explore and discuss Jewish thoughts on that which “makes the world go round” through different Jewish texts and angles.

Instructor: Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum  
Schedule: Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:45 PM  
October 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19

## **B. ISRAELI CULTURE OF TODAY**

Contemporary Jewish Israeli culture is a mosaic of fabulous creativity, traditions and rebellion. We will meet some of the great and most influential creators of that mosaic through their work in music, film, poetry and art.

Instructor: Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum

Schedule: Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:45 PM

April 22, 29; May 6, 13, 27

## **VII. VISITING LECTURER FROM JTS**

*The Rabbi's Guide to Christianity: Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Christianity but Were Afraid to Ask*

These three sessions will cover the following topics: (1) Judaism in the Year One, Earliest Christianity, and the New Testament; (2) Christianity becomes Gentile: The Fathers of the Church and the formation of Christian Doctrine; and (3) And Then I Told the Pope: Vatican II and modern Catholic and Protestant attitudes toward Judaism

Instructor: Burton Visotzky, Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary

Schedule: Thursdays, March 4, 11, and 18  
7:30 PM

## **VIII. JEWISH MUSIC STUDY**

### **4 PART CHOIR (SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, BASS)**

Explore various forms of Jewish music in this continuing course with Cantor Mendelson. If you have some ability to read music and can carry a tune, bring your zest for singing.

Instructor: Cantor Jacob Mendelson

Schedule: Alternate Thursdays, beginning in October  
(date to be announced)  
8:15 PM

## **IX. JEWISH HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND THOUGHT**

### **A. THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF JEWISH PRAYER - NEW!**

Come join us as we discover the history and meaning of key Jewish prayers. Our first session will explore the origins of Jewish prayer after the biblical system of animal sacrifice ceased with the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E. In this session, we will also trace the 2,000 year old debate on the importance of meaning what we pray versus the importance of praying from a standardized Hebrew prayer book, especially regarding the prayer known as the Amidah. Our second session will investigate the deep meanings associated with the Shema. The third session will consider the strange and surprising history and meaning of the Kaddish.

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, Rabbi-in-Residence at The Academy of Jewish Religion and Adjunct Professor of Liturgy at The Jewish Theological Seminary

Schedule: Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:00 PM  
February 4, 11, 18

### **B. ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL**

Rabbi Tucker will again teach three sessions on Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the most important Jewish philosophers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will, this year, explore Heschel's writings more deeply as they relate to revelation, prophecy, Jewish law and Jewish theology, and thus come to understand him more as a groundbreaking thinker of Conservative Judaism.

Instructor: Rabbi Gordon Tucker  
Schedule: Thursdays, 8:15 – 9:45 PM  
January 7, 14, and 21

### **C. CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT**

This is an informal study group led by Rabbi Gordon Tucker that meets Saturdays at 8:00 AM, just prior to the Shabbat morning service, to read texts and discuss issues relating to being a Conservative Jew in the contemporary world. Please register with Rabbi Tucker by providing him with your email address.

## **X. SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND**

This year's scholar-in-residence weekend is being planned to feature a major speaker and teacher who will highlight our "Going Green" theme of Jewish environmentalism. Watch for further details soon.

## **XI. ME'AH**

Me'ah is a two-year intensive adult Jewish learning program of Hebrew College. As you've matured and enjoyed personal and professional achievements, questions about your Jewish identity may have surfaced: Who am I? What is my history? How did the Jewish religion and culture develop—and what does it mean to me? Me'ah answers these questions with substance, from multiple perspectives, enabling you to find your place in the continuum of Jewish life.

You'll be immersed in reading core Jewish texts, grappling with concepts representing the historical, cultural and political movements from four eras—biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern. For approximately 100 hours of class time (Me'ah means "100" in Hebrew) over a two-year period, you'll have a chance to read, think and open your mind to new ideas.

An invigorating journey, Me'ah offers not only an opportunity to grow as a literate student of Jewish life but also a powerful means to join a growing community of learners—bringing knowledge and insight into your personal life and community as you build your understanding of what Jewish texts and ideas meant historically and what they mean for Jews today.

Temple Israel Center, together with the other synagogues in White Plains, will be offering the second year of the Me'ah program on Thursdays at 9:30 AM, beginning on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please email Academic Director Alisa Braun [abraun@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:abraun@hebrewcollege.edu) for more information.

## **XII. FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL AT THE CENTER FOR ADULT LEARNING OF WESTCHESTER**



The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School (FMAMS) introduces learners to a broad spectrum of Jewish knowledge through an organized course of classical and contemporary text study, in English. The curriculum, developed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is expressly for adult learners who seek a dynamic, interactive means of forging a closer link with their Jewish heritage.

Class sessions are held once a week, thirty weeks a year. Day and evening classes are offered. A certificate of completion from the Hebrew University is awarded after two years of study. Each session consists of two one-hour classes with a short break between them. There are no prerequisites, grades, homework or exams. The faculty consists of educators from the different Jewish traditions, each of whom respects the FMAMS pluralistic approach to Jewish learning and fosters a classroom atmosphere of warmth and respect.

FMAMS is operated at 65 sites worldwide, with over 20,000 graduates in the United States and abroad. In Westchester, classes are held at the Hartsdale Campus of The Solomon Schechter School of Westchester and at local synagogues.

For details, teachers and registration forms, contact the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Westchester at 914-948-8333 ext. 498 or [Westchester@fmams.org.il](mailto:Westchester@fmams.org.il).

### **XIII. DEREKH TORAH: The Way of Torah – *NEW!***

An introduction to Judaism for adults, this is a basic course for

- Jews looking for a deeper connection with their heritage
- Non- Jews considering conversion or an understanding of Judaism while remaining within their own faiths
- People who want to explore Judaism and define its place in their lives

Derekh Torah is offered cooperatively by the JCC and the Westchester Board of Rabbis, an organization of congregational rabbis representing the four major branches of Judaism. Call Sheila Sturmer at the JCC, 914-472-3300 x351, for further information.

Instructor: Rabbinic Intern, Eytan Hammerman  
Schedule: To be announced



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*For updates on Adult Education Programs,  
please visit the Temple Israel Center website at  
<http://www.templeisraelcenter.org>*