



המכללה העברית  
**HEBREW COLLEGE**



FALL 2020

# **Community Education Courses**

JEWISH LEARNING WITH HEBREW COLLEGE

# DISCOVER OUR OFFERINGS

Not sure what program is right for you?  
Start by asking yourself these questions...

## NEW TO JEWISH LEARNING?

- Try an Open Circle Jewish Learning class
- Young adults: We offer Open Circle Jewish Learning 20s & 30s classes throughout the year
- Parents and Grandparents: Check out Parenting and Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens

## LOOKING FOR A DEEP, INTELLECTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR PEERS?

Try our Me'ah Classic (100 hours) two-year course, taught by academics from throughout Greater Boston

## LOOKING TO LEARN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW?

Try our immersive Hebrew language Ulpan class

## LOOKING TO ENRICH YOUR JEWISH LEARNING?

- Study alongside other adult learners in a Me'ah Select semester-long class
- Try a graduate-level rabbinical, cantorial, or Jewish education non-credit course, where you'll study alongside Hebrew College ordination and graduate students

## Asking yourself these questions may help too:

Which topics are you interested in?

How intense do you want your class to be?

How often do you want to have class?

Where do you want to have class?

## LOOKING FOR JEWISH LEARNING FOR YOUR FAMILY AND/OR TEEN?

- Try Prozdor, Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston, or our new Teen Beit Midrash, Geshet Israel Seminar, or Prozdor Immersives programs
- Try Parenting or Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens.

Visit [hebrewcollege.edu/jewish-journey](https://hebrewcollege.edu/jewish-journey) to find the right program and courses to fit your learning style and schedule.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Community Courses & Conferences

HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN	1
ME'AH PROGRAMS	2
SPECIAL ME'AH SEMINAR	2
ME'AH CLASSIC	2
ME'AH SELECT	3
PARENTING & GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS	5
GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS	5
PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS	5
PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS THROUGH MUSSAR	5
TATTI CIRCLE: FATHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN	5
OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING	6
OPEN CIRCLE: CLASSIC	6
OPEN CIRCLE: SOCIAL ACTION	11
OPEN CIRCLE: 20s & 30s	11
GRADUATE RABBINICAL, CANTORIAL, AND EDUCATION COURSES	13
BIBLE	13
HEBREW LANGUAGE	14
INTERDISCIPLINARY	14
JEWISH THOUGHT	14
TEEN LEARNING	15
PROZDOR: WHERE JEWISH TEENS THRIVE	15
JEWISH TEEN FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON (JTFGB)	18
TEEN BEIT MIDRASH	18
GESHER ISRAEL SEMINAR	18
PROZDOR IMMERSIVES	18

**PLEASE NOTE: Courses listings are up-to-date as of September 8, 2020. Additional courses may be added.**

**Please check the Hebrew College website at [hebrewcollege.edu/community-learning](http://hebrewcollege.edu/community-learning) for course updates and changes.**

**For professional development opportunities please visit [hebrewcollege.edu/professional-development](http://hebrewcollege.edu/professional-development).**

September 2020 / Elul 5780

Dear friends,

We are excited to share with you the vast array of learning opportunities now available to teens and adults in the Greater Boston area through Hebrew College.

Whether you are a first-time participant or a veteran learner, I invite you to take a moment to look through this amazing catalog of programs and courses, and find a place to start. Please also consider inviting a friend, a *hevruta*, a study partner, who might want to join you!

**I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston for being for being such a vital, generous, and visionary partner in this work.** From our nationally regarded Me'ah program, to our cherished programs for Jewish parents and grandparents, to our innovative Open Circle program, CJP's sustained leadership, collaboration, and support has made lifelong learning in our community a priority, and has helped turn it from a dream into a thriving reality.

I want to add a special note as we move into this new year.

We all know how difficult these last six months have been – for our community, for our country, for our world. It is profoundly meaningful to us that we have been able to help bring people together during this time, to be inspired by wonderful teachers of Torah and Jewish wisdom, to bring high quality content and a sense of connection to students of all ages, to foster a sense of purpose and a vibrant pluralistic learning community even while we must remain physically apart.

We have been so moved by the passion for Jewish learning in the Greater Boston community during this time, more than ever. Even as we transitioned to exclusively online courses last spring, our numbers grew. Over the summer, for the first time, hundreds of adults asked for the opportunity to continue studying online – topics from Talmud to American Jewish History, to Hebrew language, to Hasidism, and much, much more. Nearly 3,000 teens and adults have participated in a rich and diverse range of offerings over the past year. Our faculty and professional staff have been endlessly dedicated to making these opportunities available, and we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

We are honored and thrilled that Dr. Susie Tanchel has joined our leadership team at the College this summer, as the Vice President of Community Education. Susie brings with her deep passion for Jewish life, a wealth of educational experience, and a dynamic vision for Boston as a center of Jewish learning. We look forward to branching out in new ways and building together!

May our community continue to be strengthened and sustained by a shared love of learning, and may you find a place for yourself in the wonderful opportunities reflected in these pages. Please be in touch with me or with Susie Tanchel if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas you'd like to share!



Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
President, Hebrew College

# HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN

Hebrew College Ulpan is an immersion language program that teaches grammar, reading comprehension, and conversation skills. Ulpan brings Hebrew to life through discussions of contemporary political, social, and cultural topics, and readings drawn from current Israeli news and social commentary. Ulpan is offered through ten levels of study, including beginner, intermediate and advanced.

**Program Information:** [hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan](http://hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan)

**Registration:** [hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/](http://hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/)

**CONTACT:** Iris Schor | [ischor@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:ischor@hebrewcollege.edu)

Fall classes start the week of September 21. For placement, contact **Iris Schor** at [ischor@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:ischor@hebrewcollege.edu).

**Aliza Brosh, Maya Dalzell, Osnat Hazan, Shlomi Zan.** \$750 (levels 1A-9); \$635 (level 10)

**Level 1A:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30–11 AM, September 21–December 16

**Level 1A:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30–8 PM, September 21–December 16

**Level 1B:** Thursdays and Sundays, 6:30–8 PM, September 13–December 20

**Level 1B:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30–11 AM, September 22–December 15

**Level 2A:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30–8 PM, September 21–December 16

**Level 2B:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30–11 AM, September 22–December 15

**Level 3A:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30–11 AM, September 23–December 18

**Level 3B:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30–8 PM, September 21–December 16

**Level 4:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 AM–1 PM, September 21–December 16

**Level 5:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 AM–1 PM, September 22–December 15

**Level 6:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–8 PM, September 22–December 15

**Level 7:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 AM–1 PM, September 22–December 15

**Level 8:** Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30–8 PM, September 21–December 16

**Level 9:** Mondays and Fridays, 8:30–10 AM, September 21–December 14

**Level 10:** Wednesdays, 10 AM–12 PM, September 23–December 16

## ME'AH PROGRAMS

Journey through Jewish texts and ideas from biblical times to the present through Hebrew College's two-year Me'ah Classic program or dive into a particular historic period, time, or personality through Hebrew College's one-semester Me'ah Select classes. This fall, Me'ah is also offering a special Me'ah Select Seminar with Jewish scholar Rabbi Arthur Green, an expert on Hasidic and Neo-Hasidic thought.

**Program Information:** [hebrewcollege.edu/programs/meah](http://hebrewcollege.edu/programs/meah)

**Registration:** [hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/](http://hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/)

All courses listed below are online courses and are open to all.

**CONTACT:** Marilyn Stern | [meah@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:meah@hebrewcollege.edu)

### SPECIAL ME'AH SEMINAR

#### **OLD WINE, NEW VESSELS: A HASIDIC MASTER ADDRESSES TODAY'S SEEKERS**

**Rabbi Art Green**

Mondays, 12:30–2 PM, October 19–December 7; \$200. *Financial aid is available.*

Join us for an eight-week online seminar series with scholar Rabbi Arthur Green featuring the original Hasidic teachings of the *Ba'al Shem Tov*. Delve into a remarkable Hasidic work that Rabbi Green describes as “a guide to the cultivation of spiritual awareness and the implications of such awareness for one’s emotional and moral life.” Connect with the deep spiritual wisdom and healing powers of Hasidic teachings. Explore how Hasidism can spiritually re-invigorate Judaism in today’s contemporary world. Each session will include one hour of text study and 30 minutes of Q & A.

### ME'AH CLASSIC

With 100 (me'ah in Hebrew) hours of coursework over two years, Me'ah Classic is a comprehensive, engaging, and in-depth adult learning experience that takes students on a journey through the narrative of the Jewish people and empowers students to become part of the conversation. Readings, text study, lectures and discussions focus on core texts from biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern times. Students receive a certificate during a graduation ceremony at the end of their second year.

#### **ME'AH CLASSIC: FIRST YEAR (MORNING)**

**Rabbi Leonard Gordon, DDiv;** Partner Organizations: **B'nai Tikvah of Canton and Temple Israel of Sharon**

Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, Fall Semester: October 20–January 5, Spring Semester: TBD. *Financial aid is available.*

#### **ME'AH CLASSIC: FIRST YEAR (EVENING)**

**Rabbi Neal Gold**

Mondays, 7–9 PM Fall Semester: October 19–January 4; Spring Semester: TBD. *Financial aid is available.*

#### **ME'AH CLASSIC: SECOND YEAR (MORNING)**

**Dr. Alan Verskin**

Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, Fall Semester: October 13–December 22; Spring Semester: TBD. *Financial aid is available.*

#### **ME'AH CLASSIC: SECOND YEAR (EVENINGS)**

**Dr. Shari Lowin;** Partner Organizations: **Temple Beth Zion (Brookline) and Temple Sinai (Brookline)**

Wednesdays, 7:15–9:15 PM, Fall Semester: October 7–December 23; Spring Semester: TBD. *Financial aid is available.*

## ME'AH SELECT

### **CAN WE INTEGRATE TRADITION AND MODERNITY? UNDERSTANDING THE CRUCIAL CHALLENGE OF MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT**

**Dr. Jacob Meskin;** Partner Organization: **Worship & Study Minyan, Harvard Hillel**

Sundays 3–5 PM, October 18–March 7; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

Modernity is an impressive human achievement, which is continuing to develop with unforeseeable complexity. However, many thoughtful Jews have found that without some kind of rich connection to the Jewish past—the lives of our ancestors and the great wealth of Jewish tradition—there is no Jewish future (and little Jewish present). What can this “rich connection to the Jewish past” mean for modern Jews today? We’ll explore this question. We will start with Mendlesohn, move on to existentialist (and neo-Hasidic) thinkers like Buber, Rosenzweig, and Heschel; Jewish feminist thinkers such as Plaskow, Adler, and Ross; and Zionist and Jewish postmodern thinkers; and end with consideration of Levinas’ unique “Judaically-shaped” philosophy.

### **L'CHAYIM: BRINGING THE YIDDISH FIDDLER TO LIFE!**

**Cantor Lynn Torgove and Amy Lieberman**

Mondays, 4:30–6 PM, October 19–December 17; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

This innovative two-semester program explores the different aspects of the Yiddish Fiddler on the Roof, inspired by the recent successful Off-Broadway production. Expert instructors and renowned guest lecturers will help us understand the literary, theatrical, and musical background of Fiddler. Participants will explore the rich history and music of Yiddish Theater, Fiddler’s influence on American Musical Theater and Broadway, and the wide cultural impact of this groundbreaking work. In the second semester, we will sing the music of Fiddler on the Roof . . . in Yiddish! Learn from the Directors and alongside the Cantorial student members of Hebrew College’s Chamber Choir, Kol Arev, as they celebrate their 10th Anniversary!

### **THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE LENS OF SHORT STORIES**

**Dr. Jacob Meskin**

Tuesdays, 7–9 PM, October 20–December 22; \$350. *Financial aid is available.*

In this course we read moving Jewish short stories from the late 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries, and discuss what we can learn from them about the diverse historical and personal experiences of modern Jews. Modernity reshaped many aspects of Jewish life, such as family, religious faith, romantic love, aging, relations with non-Jews, etc. In open-ended (and usually quite energetic) class conversations about the stories, we will explore how these changes affected the thoughts and feelings of our grandparents and parents—and how they continue to affect ours today. Among many others, we will be reading Sholem Aleichem, I.B. Singer, Bernard Malamud, Cynthia Ozick, Dara Horn, and Nathan Englander.

### **A MULTIPLICITY OF VOICES: THE BIBLICAL LEGACY OF VALUING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES**

**Dr. Susie Tanchel**

Thursdays, 7–9 PM, October 15–January 7; \$350. *Financial aid is available.*

In this 10-week course we will study biblical texts, closely uncovering the multiple perspectives the texts offer on a variety of topics, including founding myths, leadership (prophetic/kings), religious ideals, and women’s sexuality. At this tense time of polarization and separation in the United States, the Bible offers us a different path for managing disagreements. Through our class discussions, we will explore together what modern resonance lies within these ancient texts and how we might apply some of the learnings to our lives today. Our close analysis will employ a number of different methodologies, including literary readings, rabbinic and traditional, as well as academic. No prior knowledge of biblical texts is expected. Bring an open mind and heart.

### **OLD NEW WORLD: THE HISTORY OF ZIONIST IDEAS**

**Rabbi Neal Gold;** Partner Organization: **Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham**

Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, October 13–December 15; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

Zionism sprouted from modernity, the 19th century social and intellectual trends that challenged just what, exactly, it meant to be a Jew in a new era of history. In this class we’ll explore how those ideas impacted the Jewish people in Israel and in America, and we’ll learn about the many societal changes that occurred post-1948 and post-1967, as expressed by the thinkers, poets, and artists who shaped these generations. To understand their ideas is essential for understanding why and how the State of Israel came to be, why it looks the way it does today, and what it all means for 21st Century Judaism.

## **PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE: EXPLORING BIBLICAL, RABBINIC, AND JEWISH HISTORICAL PERSONALITIES**

**Rabbi Benjamin Samuels, PhD;** Partner Organization: **Temple Emanuel, Newton**

Mondays, 7–9 PM, October 19–December 21; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

This series seeks to find inspiration and uplift in the narratives of Jewish personalities whose encounters with life's challenges serve as enduring lessons in leadership and resilience. Over the course of 10 sessions, we will interactively study several biblical personalities of the Hebrew Bible, including Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and Job; the rabbinic personalities of Rachel and Rabbi Akiva and Beruria and Rabbi Meir; and the Jewish historical personalities of Moses Maimonides, Gluckel of Hameln, and Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Each session represents a study in courage and determination, and our study of all of them together will help us discover and strengthen our own hidden resources of leadership and resilience.

## **SAGES & DREAMERS: THE LIVES OF THE RABBIS OF THE TALMUD**

**Rabbi Neal Gold;** Partner Organization: **Temple Emanuel, Newton**

Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, October 14–January 6; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

Who were the spiritual geniuses who shaped Judaism in its formative stages? In this course, we'll analyze the lives of some of the most important figures in Jewish history: the sages of the first and second centuries of the common era who inherited Biblical religion and, in the wake of tragedy, transformed it to speak to a new generation. Using primary sources found in the Aggadah (stories of the Talmud and Midrash), we'll explore the legacies of Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, Rabbi Akiva, Beruria, and Rabbi Meir, and more.

## **SEFER MELACHIM ALEF (THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS): THE ENDURING RIDDLE OF SOLOMON—NATION BUILDING AND THE CHALLENGE OF CONTINUITY**

**Rabbi Benjamin Samuels, PhD;** Partner Organization: **Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley**

Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, October 14–January 13; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

This class will explore the first book of Sefer Melachim (Kings), which tells the continuing saga of the Davidic Dynasty, from the epic rise of Solomon's empire to its ultimate disintegration and division. As we study the rise and fall of the United Kingdom of Israel, we will investigate the challenges of bringing a vision to fruition and ensuring its continuity. Our discussions are interactive and exciting. We look forward to exploring the fascinating history of our people as we study Torah together.

## **THE SWORD AND THE CROSS FROM MEXICO TO ARGENTINA: JEWISH LITERATURE OF EXTREME SITUATIONS**

**Dr. Dalia Wassner;** Partner Organizations: **Temple Emunah & Temple Isaiah, Lexington**

Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 AM, October 15–January 7; \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

You know the story of Joseph and his brothers? Its plot, its characters, its setting? But are you sure there's only one story of Joseph? What about Sarah, who sent out her husband's concubine Hagar? Or how about a story from Christian scriptures, such as Mary the mother of Jesus? In this course, we will consider biblical stories from both the Hebrew Bible as well as the Gospels to see how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have told and retold these tales in antiquity and the early medieval period.

## **UNPACKING ANTISEMITISM: RELIGIOUS ORIGINS, MODERN FORMS, AND CONTEMPORARY DYNAMICS**

**Dr. Jacob Meskin**

**Option One:** Mondays, 7–9 PM, October 19–December 21 (in collaboration with **Temple Emunah and Temple Isaiah, Lexington**)

**Option Two:** Wednesdays, 7–9 PM, October 7–December 16 (in collaboration with **Congregation Eitz Chayim, Tremont Street Shul, Cambridge**); \$325. *Financial aid is available.*

In this course we will explore the complex origins of ancient and medieval "antijudaism." We will focus on Christian and Islamic sources, on how different thinkers interpreted these sources in different times and places, and on the historical events that flowed from these interpretations. Ancient and medieval antijudaism flowed from, and were expressed in terms of religion. But modern antisemitism has a dangerous variety of forms: racial, economic, political, and occasionally religious, as well. Drawing on our earlier work, on materials from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and on documents and events from our own complicated contemporary situation, we will try to grasp the many currents and trends that drive antisemitism today.

# PARENTING & GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

**Program Information:** [hebrewcollege.edu/parenting](http://hebrewcollege.edu/parenting)

**CONTACT:** Ahava Rosenthal | [arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu)

## GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (5 SESSIONS)

Grandparenting today is a rewarding and challenging experience. But in these days of social distancing amid the fear of a pandemic that seems to stretch far ahead of us, being an active grandparent has become especially fraught. In Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens, you'll explore how Jewish wisdom can help us navigate our roles in our children's and grandchildren's lives, both in the day-to-day reality of living with COVID-19, as well as in contemplating what being reunited with our families will look like. We will also explore our personal grandparenting journeys: what came before us, and what we will leave behind.

**Rabbi Daniel Liben;** Partner Organization: Temple Israel Natick  
Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM, November 12-January 7; \$80 for one person | \$160 for two people

**Leann Shamash;** Partner Organization: Congregation Beth Elohim Acton  
Mondays, 7-8:30 PM, October 19-November 16, \$80 for one person | \$160 for two people

## PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (8 SESSIONS)

Join together with other parents to explore how Jewish values, traditions and wisdom can support us as we navigate our parenting journeys, especially in these challenging times. Engage in meaningful conversation inspired by Jewish text. Build community and friendships in a safe space for sharing the ups and downs of parenting. You do not need to have taken Series A in order to fully participate in this class.

### PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS: SERIES A

**Benjamin Einsidler;** Partner Organization: Temple Emunah, Lexington  
Sundays, 8:15-9:45 pm, November 8-April 11, \$80 for one person | \$160 for two people

### PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS: SERIES B

**Rabbi Getzel Davis;** Sundays, 8:15-9:45 PM, October 25-March 7; \$80 for one person | \$160 for two people

**Carolyn Keller;** Partner Organizations: Congregation Or Atid, Wayland; Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham; and Metrowest Jewish Day School; Sundays, 8:30-10 PM, November 8-April 11; \$80 for one person | \$160 for two people

## PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS THROUGH MUSSAR (8 SESSIONS)

### Rabbi Marcia Plumb

Wednesdays 9:15-10:45 AM, October 7-February 17; \$216 per person

*Mussar* (ethics) is the Jewish wisdom tradition that teaches us how to act according to our highest core values. This course will explore specific character traits and will be geared toward exploring how *Mussar* can help us as parents. *No prior knowledge is needed.* \*See also *Parenting Through a Jewish Lens*

## TATTI CIRCLE: FATHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN (8 SESSIONS)

**Rabbi Getzel Davis** Sundays, 8-9:30 PM, October 18-May 16; \$120 per person

Join tattis (Yiddish for fathers) from around the country for a Jewish, feminist, and anti-racist, exploration of what it means to raise young children in America today. Through a combination of modern and ancient Jewish wisdom, self-reflection, and good amount of group process, fathers will explore questions of identity and spirituality. By the end of this eight-month series, we will all have made new friends, have a clearer sense of how their our Jewish identity intersects with our parenting, and develop strategies for how to be a better father and partner. Enthusiastically open to all regardless of Jewish education, Hebrew background, interfaith status, or queer identity. \*See also *Open Circle: 20's and 30's*

# OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING

In Hebrew College's Open Circle Jewish Learning discussion groups, you can ask big questions, explore relevant topics, and find meaning in Jewish sources of wisdom. Delve into Jewish texts, learn and make a difference through a social justice community group, or participate in a conversation group focused on mysticism and mindfulness.

**Program and registration information:** [hebrewcollege.edu/OCJL](http://hebrewcollege.edu/OCJL)

**CONTACT:** Linna Ettinger | [lettinger@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lettinger@hebrewcollege.edu)

## OPEN CIRCLE: CLASSIC

### **ADVANCED MUSSAR – CONGREGATION BETH EL SUDBURY**

**Rabbi Eric Gurvis**

Wednesdays, 7:15–8:45 PM, October 21–February 10; \$216

Traveling the *Mussar* Path is a powerful, meaningful and life-affirming spiritual practice. This *Va'ad* (*Mussar* group) is for students/practitioners with previous experience in *Mussar* study and practice. The *middot* (soul-traits) will be chosen collaboratively by the members of the group. The experience will involve bi-weekly group sessions, alternating with *hevruta* study outside of our group sessions.

### **ADVANCED MUSSAR STUDY GROUP – SHIR TIKVAH WINCHESTER**

**Rabbi Marcia Plumb**

Tuesdays 7:30–9 PM, October 13–February 23; \$216

The study group will use *Mussar* texts and practices, combined with personal interactions, to more closely align their daily behavior with their spiritual values.

### **BIBLICAL GEMS-THE STORIES BEHIND THE FAMOUS VERSES**

**Jamie Stolper**

Mondays, 7:30–9 PM, November 9–December 14; \$162

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” “Proclaim liberty throughout the land.” The Priestly Blessing. In this class, we will look at several well-known and beloved biblical passages that illustrate important values of Judaism and are also used in many non-Jewish settings, religious and secular. We will study their original context in the Hebrew Bible, read rabbinical and other interpretations through the centuries, and discuss how these passages have come to be used by others in today's world. Special attention will be given to the social justice and racial justice imperatives that they require of us. Discussion time included.

### **DAF YOMI FOR BEGINNERS**

**Layah Lipsker**

Mondays and Thursdays, 9–9:45 AM, September 10–November 5; \$216

This is your opportunity to join Jews around the world in the daily study of Talmud. Layah will lead a 45-minute study two times each week to discuss themes in the daily Daf (page or folio) and its relevance for the modern Jew. This is a beginners Talmud class and is entirely in English.

### **DAYS OF AWE: PRAYER AND TEACHING**

**Rabbi Allan Lehmann**

Wednesdays, 7–9:30 PM, September 2–October 7; \$150

Over many centuries, no matter what the circumstances, Jews have begun each new year looking at our world and our lives with anticipation, reverence, wonder, and awe. As this is especially true in this Pandemic year, our Open Circle course, “Days of Awe: Prayers and Teachings,” will offer a way of preparation. Our encounter and preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is intended for people of all backgrounds and experiences, and of all (and no) levels of Hebrew familiarity.

## **DID OUR BIBLICAL ANCESTORS PRACTICE MUSSAR?**

**Rabbi Carol Glass**

Tuesdays, 10–11:30 AM, October 6–January 19; \$216

Together we'll study excerpts from the weekly Torah portion (*Parasha*) to learn how our biblical forebear's speech and actions exemplified personal attributes which are known today as *Middot* associated with the practice of *Mussar*. When practiced with intent and commitment, *Mussar* can support us to lead lives of greater connection, and more profound ethical and spiritual depth. Sessions may include group discussion, *hevruta* (partner) study, personal sharing, and review of brief practices to be undertaken between sessions. *Consistent attendance is expected.*

## **EXPLORING GOD: AN INTRO FOR SEEKERS AND SKEPTICS**

**Akiva Nelson**

Sundays, 5–6:30 PM, October 18–December 13; \$216

Throughout Jewish history and into the present day, Jewish perspectives on the nature of God have shifted and evolved. In this class, we'll dip our toes into this history via song, liturgy, text study, and embodied practices. We'll also encourage learners to share stories about their spiritual journeys and provide opportunities for introspection and discussion. The goal is to introduce students to a diversity of Jewish theological perspectives (from Torah, liturgy, Hassidut, and contemporary theologians) while also helping them navigate this theology in a meaningful way. Seekers of all backgrounds are welcome, as are non-believers and believers, skeptics, and anyone with an interest in one of the grandest and most confusing aspects of human life and religion.

## **EXPLORING OUR SOUL CURRICULUM-AN EXPLORATION OF MUSSAR**

**Laila Goodman**

Sundays, 10–11:30 AM, October 18–May 23; \$216

We will explore traditional *Mussar* texts as a means of finding specific behaviors we can explore in ourselves to work on being more of our best selves. Each class will focus on one character trait and through discussion and *hevruta* (partner) work, each participant will identify small actions to take on as practice.

## **THE FEMININE SCROLLS AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION—FROM BIBLICAL TIMES TO TODAY**

**Rabbi Natan Margalit**

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 PM, October 20–December 1; \$216

In this class we'll explore the books of Ruth, Esther and Song of Songs—all biblical books where the women featured—either as leading character, or as one of the leading pair—and where women's perspectives, roles and capacities are central to our understanding. These are also books that deeply explore how societies can transform and grow—often with women as the catalysts for change. No matter what gender we identify as, all of us can learn from these books about how to bring about personal, spiritual, and social transformation. Using a variety of commentaries and approaches, we'll delve into these literary and spiritual gems of biblical writing and see how they relate to our lives and experiences today.

## **HASIDIC AND NEO-HASIDIC INSIGHTS INTO MAINTAINING HOP, JOY AND PERSPECTIVE IN CHALLENGING (OR NORMAL TIMES)**

**Rabbi Natan Margalit**

Mondays, 7:15–8:45 PM, September 14–December 14; \$189

The Hasidic masters were deeply focused on the dynamics of the inner life. Their Torah interpretations were often treasure troves of insight into how we deal with fear, anger, distraction, bad habits—all the things that our current conditions may be bringing out in us as we struggle to cope. They offer us spiritual and psychological strategies for not only avoiding these negative patterns but for reaching deep joy, hope, confidence, and a wider perspective on our lives. We will focus in this class on the writings of two Hasidic masters: The Ishbitzer Rebbe, Rabbi Mordecai Yoseph Leiner (1801- 1854) and The Piaseczner Rebbe, Rabbi Kalman Kalonymous Shapiro (1889 – 1943) who's writings are especially insightful on what might be called “radical spiritual psychology.” We will also bring in some of the best of modern masters who follow in the Hasidic path but have integrated it with contemporary perspectives.

## **INSPIRED LEADSHIP IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

### **Layah Lipsker**

Tuesdays, 1–2:30 PM, September 8–December 8; \$216

During this time of challenge, what does inspired leadership look like and how is it cultivated? Join us for a deep dive into biblical narratives of leadership during times of personal and communal change and crisis. This six week session will include narratives of Moses, Devorah, King David, and others and will focus on interactive conversation and Midrashic and Kabbalistic interpretations.

## **IN SEARCH OF RENEWAL: SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF RABBI ZALMAN SCHACTER-SHALOMI**

### **Rabbi Or Rose**

Thursdays, 12–1:30 PM, September 10–October 15; \$150

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (1924-2014) was one of the most influential and creative Jewish figures of the last decades. Trained as a Hasidic rabbi in the HaBaD-Lubavitch community, he became a leading figure in the translation and teaching of the Jewish mystical tradition across the Jewish community and far beyond. Weaving together teachings from Kabbalah and Hasidism with insights from several other religious and wisdom traditions, he created the Jewish Renewal Movement. He played a vital role in interreligious and cross-cultural understanding through his teaching, dialogue, and ritual innovations. Join us as we explore Reb Zalman's (a less formal title he preferred) legacy in the year 2020, including the health and social crises we find ourselves facing today. Our instructor, Rabbi Or Rose, is the co-editor of the new volume *Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi: Essential Teachings* (Orbis Books) and a long-time student of Reb Zalman.

## **INTERMEDIATE MUSSAR- TEMPLE BETH SHALOM-NEEDHAM**

### **Rabbi Eric Gurvis**

Thursdays, 7:30–9 PM, October 27–February 16; \$216

Traveling the *Mussar* Path is a powerful, meaningful and life-affirming spiritual practice. This *Va'ad* (*Mussar* group) is for students/practitioners with some previous experience in *Mussar* study and practice. The *middot* (soul-traits) will be chosen collaboratively by the members of the group. The experience will involve bi-weekly group sessions, alternating with *hevruta* study outside of our group sessions.

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO TALMUDIC AND HASIDIC STORIES**

### **Rabbi Lev Friedman**

Tuesdays, 2–3:30 PM, October 13–December 1; \$162

This course will be experiential, employing *hevruta* (study partner) learning and group discussion, as well as some frontal learning. The goal will be to introduce the participants to the complexity, depth, imagery and values of Talmudic stories. Fully one-third of the Talmud is made up of folklore, yet these sections are often overlooked. We will flesh out the specific themes that each story attempts to teach and make connections between the Talmudic text and the biblical sources it quotes (if applicable). In some cases we will note the dreamlike quality of the stories and the elasticity of meaning that they convey. These stories have many different genres; the nature of the soul, faith, prayer, love of God and humanity, and wisdom as well as the entrapments of modernity to name a few.

## **ISRAEL: THEN AND NOW**

### **Maya Dalzell**

Tuesdays, 11:30 AM –1 PM, October 20–December 8; \$216

The goal for this class is for students to get a deep and balanced understanding of Israel, its complicated history and its current challenges. In this course students will learn about Israel's most critical and memorable moments as well as about some of the most influential people in Israeli history. Students will also learn about the many sides and narratives that interact to shape the complex reality of Israel today. Sessions will include the inception of the Jewish State, challenges of a Jewish democracy, the contemporary impact of the Eichman trial, the intractable Israeli-Arab conflict, perception and media representation of the Israeli nation, the key figures that shaped the Jewish State, innovation and entrepreneurship; Israel leads the way, looking ahead; current events and the pathway forward.

## **JEWISH CONTEMPORARY LIFE AND LIVING**

**Rabbi Lila Kagedan**

Wednesdays, 11 AM –12:30 PM, October 7–April 14; \$189

We will look at current issues and relate them back to the Torah. We will also discuss themes like cooking movies and other topics. We'll see how things today are similar to the past and what the significance is today!

## **JEWISH MINDFULNESS MEDITATION ON ONE FOOT**

**Shoshana Cetlin**

Thursdays, 7–8:30 PM, October 22–December 17; \$216

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation is a comforting, loving, and strength-building approach to help us navigate life's ups and downs, especially now with the current stress and strong emotions we are facing in our personal lives and communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to be fully there for others, we also need to learn to love ourselves fully as a friend, an aspect of the central teaching of the Torah that Rabbi Hillel famously expounded on one foot with his treasured words, "Love your friend as yourself." In this eight-part weekly series, we will explore what it means to befriend ourselves and others as we learn the basics of Jewish mindfulness meditation, the art of living in the flow of loving/compassionate awareness of the mind, body, and heart. Each class will draw from the *parasha* of the week, the Jewish calendar, and/or Jewish mystical teachings. Upon completion of the series, it is hoped you will have acquired or strengthened your own personal mindfulness meditation practice and be able to bring the wisdom learned from your practice into your everyday life. All levels of experience are welcome, from beginners to the more experienced. Each class will include some Jewish text study, meditation instruction, meditation practice time, discussion and sharing within a supportive, *hevruta*/friendship circle. *The instructor will offer three optional 10-minute one-on-one private check ins between classes.*

## **THE JEWISH ROAD TO CHARACTER: A FIRST TRIP DOWN THE MUSSAR PATH**

**Rabbi Eric Gurvis**

Thursdays, 7:45–9:15 PM, October 22–February 4; \$216

In our confusing and contentious time, many are seeking to find a greater sense of grounding in core virtues that can guide us, uplift us and inspire us to become the best persons we can be. For the Jewish world, asking such a focus is hardly new. Yet, in our time, we have the uncovering of a rich part of our Jewish heritage which was nearly lost to our people – the study and practice of *Mussar*. In large part inspired by the work of *The Mussar Institute* and other contemporary efforts at reclaiming *mussar* for our day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study *Mussar* teachings and their accompanying practice into their lives. In this bi-weekly series, we will delve in the study and practice of some of the *Mussar* traditions and wisdom for our lives in our times. Come travel the "Jewish Road to Character" along this journey into what be a profoundly meaningful and nourishing spiritual practice for our Jewish souls, hearts and minds.

## **THE KABALLAH OF FAMILY**

**Layah Lipsker**

Wednesdays, 12–1:30 PM, October 14–January 20; \$216

This series will explore family dynamics through biblical and Talmudic texts with a Kabbalistic lens.

## **MUSSAR FOR EVERYONE**

**Merry Arnold**

Thursdays, 7:15–8:45 PM, October 22–January 21; \$189

Physical exercise may be difficult on long, cold winter nights, but it is a perfect time to learn. *Mussar* is a Jewish practice that encourages us to develop many of the traits we use to be ethical, loving people. These traits (*middot*) include things like compassion, attentive listening, and generosity. Come explore what Jewish tradition can teach us about some of the *middot*, and try out simple, time tested ways to enhance your life and live with more intention.

## **NOT FOR ARTISTS ONLY: CREATIVE RESPONSES TO JEWISH TEXTS FOR OUR TIMES**

**Rabbi Carol Glass and Julie Leavitt**

Thursdays, 3:30–5 PM, October 8–November 12; \$162

Each session will begin with a brief spiritual-grounding exercise and study of a chosen text—in either whole group or study-partner formats. This text “encounter” will be followed by time for individual expression in a creative modality such as writing, movement, painting, or sculpture that might reveal your response to the text. Prior experience with text or art is unnecessary; simply bring curiosity and an openness to exploration! It is hoped that by course end each participant will share (optional) a creative response of theirs that moves or excites them.

## **PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS THROUGH MUSSAR (8 SESSIONS)**

**Rabbi Marcia Plumb**

Wednesdays 9:15–10:45 AM, October 7–February 17; \$216

*Mussar* (ethics) is the Jewish wisdom tradition that teaches us how to act according to our highest core values. This course will explore specific character traits and will be geared toward exploring how *Mussar* can help us as parents. *No prior knowledge is needed.* \*See also *Parenting Through a Jewish Lens*

## **PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH ANCIENT WISDOM**

**Ketriellah Goldfeder**

Sundays, 7:30–9 PM, September 6–December 20; \$216

These sessions will include Torah text study, mindfulness practices, compassionate listening partnerships and other evidence-based practices to help cultivate personal and spiritual growth.

## **QABALLAH QAFÉ**

**Rabbi David Curiel**

Wednesdays, 7:30–9 PM, October 28–December 16; \$162

Have you been curious about Kabbalah, but didn't know where to start? Join Rabbi David Curiel as we dive into the mystical waters of the Jewish heart/mind. There is no shallow end, but there will be plenty of help along the way and no prior knowledge is necessary. We'll explore a different topic each week, with plenty of discussion and an emphasis on how to use these mind maps for our own inner lives and development.

## **SERVICE OF THE HEART: WRESTLING WITH PRAYER**

**Rabbi Mona Strick**

Thursdays, 7–8:30 PM, October 1–November 19; \$216

What is prayer? Why do we pray? How can prayer transition from a rote form into a meaningful practice? In our eight session class we will explore the roots and theology of Jewish prayer in Biblical and Talmudic sources as well as reflections from Jewish thinkers—medieval and contemporary. Throughout our course we will dig into selections from liturgy to reflect on meaning and intention in personal and communal practice.

## **THE TORAH OF DREAMS: UNDERSTANDING OUR DREAMS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PARDES**

**Linda Schiller**

Mondays, 6:30–8 PM, October 19–November 23; \$162

Jewish tradition honors and respects dreams and dream interpretation and references it in Torah, Talmud, and Zohar. This course introduces the rich tradition of Jewish dreamwork, and presents the participants with a unique method of understanding the layers of their dreams through the framework of the *Pardes* method of studying Torah. This allows participants to capture the multiple and rich layers of meaning for themselves and others, including spiritual insights and connections through dreams, as well as gaining insights about physical, emotional, and relational issues of dilemmas in their life. This is an interactive participatory workshop that will leave members with a full toolbox of dreamwork methods and techniques based in Jewish mindful and spiritual practices.

## WATCH AND LEARN

### Layah Lipsker

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM–12 PM, October 13–January 5; \$216

This series will include a film or TV show watched individually and followed by a conversation and text study. Selections will include Jewish themes, history, and values.

## WOMEN WROTE: BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS TO LATE MEDIEVAL TIMES

### Dr. Rachel Greenblatt

Tuesdays, 7:30–9 PM, October 20–December 15; \$216

A clearly patriarchal structure governed traditional Jewish life: men counted in a prayer quorum, learned Talmud, read, wrote; women did not. Yes—but. In reality, many Jewish women in medieval and early modern Europe read, wrote, worked in the publishing trade, taught women and led their prayers. In this course, we will encounter the writings of several such women, reading excerpts in class and discussing the personal concerns, historical context they reveal and considering the meaning of their work for us today. Authors under consideration may include: Biblical Deborah, Talmudic Beruriah, Sara Cobia Sulam (1592-1641), Rivkah Tikliner (Cracow, Prague; d. 1605), Glikl bas Judah Leib (Hamburg and Metz; 1645-1724), Beila Perlflechter (Prague, Altdorf, Italy; d. 1709).

## OPEN CIRCLE: SOCIAL ACTION

### DOES GID VOTE? (6 sessions)

#### Hindy Finman

Thursdays, 7–8:30 PM, October 1–November 5; \$108

As we draw closer to one of the most turbulent moments in American voting history it is common to wonder where GID may be in this process. Does GID show up to vote and wait in line with us? Does GID cast a ballot? What if GID's ballot is not like my ballot- is that a GID that I want to have a relationship with? This six-week course will explore how the modern idea of the franchise can be understood through Jewish teachings and text. Based on this framework, we will develop strategies together that enable us to increase compassion for ourselves and each other when it comes to the sensitive and often fraught issue of voting.

## OPEN CIRCLE: 20s & 30s

### ADVANCED ZIVUG (8 sessions)

#### Rabbi Getzel Davis

Sundays 8–9:30 PM, October 11–May 9; \$120

This class is open only to alumni of a previous ZIVUG cohort. Join a monthly check in and skills-building workshop with other couples around the country as we continue to practice turning towards each other and growing together in relationships. Building off of the ZIVUG model, we will dive more deeply into creating a family identity, choosing how we relate to our families or origin, and making decisions around parenthood. Each meeting will consist of evocative text study, couples exercises, and group process. *All gender expressions, religious backgrounds, and Hebrew backgrounds welcome.*

## JEWISH TOOLS FOR SATURN'S RETURN

#### Rabbi David Curiel

Tuesdays, 7:30–9 PM, October 13–December 8; \$120

Saturn returns to the same place in the sky as when you were born every 28 or so years. Astrologically, this is a time of tumult, frustration, and, if well guided, tremendous growth. Wouldn't it be nice to navigate this confusing time with some guidance from a rabbi and spiritual director? This class is specifically aimed at those turning 28, 29 or 30 this coming year (as well as anybody who has ever been 28 years old) and will provide a facilitated container to talk about these potentially-transformative periods in our lives. *Each class will introduce a tangible spiritual practice to use during this time, as well as ample time for sharing on an aspect of common struggle.*

## **ZIVUG: ACTIVIST COUPLES PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE**

**Rabbi Getzel Davis**

Wednesdays, 8–9:30 PM, October 14–December 2; \$105

Join Rabbi Getzel for a 7-class series for couples interested in a conscious and healthy transition to marriage. Through Jewish wisdom, text study, guided exercises, and frank conversations, we will explore the growth and maintenance of vibrant relationships. This is a cohort for folks specifically interested in exploring power dynamics, feminism, and how our decisions as a couple interact impact the world. *All gender expressions, religious backgrounds, and Hebrew backgrounds welcome. (7 sessions)*

## **SHAL-OM: STORIES AND THEIR STORYTELLERS**

**Rabbi Getzel Davis**

Thursdays, 8–9:30 PM, October 15–December 10; \$120

Join with other spiritual seekers for an exploration of some of the most awesome mystical stories and spiritual autobiographies told by the Biblical, Rabbinic, Kabbalistic, and Chassidic traditions. Reflect together on the power of narrative, the value of stories, and the use of metaphors to describe mystical states and one's relationship to the divine. Our last few sessions will leap into Jewish modern literature and movies. *All are welcome regardless of Jewish background, mystical practice or training, or language skills. (8 sessions)*

## **TATTI CIRCLE: FATHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

**Rabbi Getzel Davis**

Sundays, 8–9:30 PM, October 18–May 16; \$120

Join tattis (Yiddish for fathers) from around the country for a Jewish, feminist, and anti-racist, exploration of what it means to raise young children in America today. Through a combination of modern and ancient Jewish wisdom, self-reflection, and good amount of group process, fathers will explore questions of identity and spirituality. By the end of this eight-month series, we will all have made new friends, have a clearer sense of how their our Jewish identity intersects with their our parenting, and develop strategies for how to be a better father and partner. *Enthusiastically open to all regardless of Jewish education, Hebrew background, interfaith status, or queer identity. \*See also Parenting Through a Jewish Lens. (8 sessions)*



# GRADUATE RABBINICAL, CANTORIAL, AND EDUCATION COURSES

Community members are invited to look at our academic offerings each semester on our website. Save the date for winter/spring registration.

Registration for spring semester will take place between January 4 and February 8, 2021.

Spring semester classes will run from Feb. 1 - May 21

Details are on the [Academic Calendar](#) on the website.

**CONTACT RABBINICAL & CANTORIAL CLASSES | Laurena Rosenberg | [lrosenberg@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lrosenberg@hebrewcollege.edu)**

**JEWISH EDUCATION CLASSES | Deb Ron | [dron@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:dron@hebrewcollege.edu)**

## Recent course titles have included:

### BIBLE

#### GENRES AND THEMES OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

**Rachel Adelman**

*Requires Hebrew 4*

This course will focus on biblical narrative and legal discourse. We will cover the arc of biblical history and historiography in its Ancient Near Eastern context, examining prose selections from the Torah, as well as the historical books: Joshua, Judges, Samuel I and II, and Kings I and II, with a foray into the early Second Temple Period. A few sessions will also focus on legal sections, including ritual and civil law. Particular attention is paid to understanding of the Hebrew text, and to the linguistic and literary characteristics of the different genres.

### EDUCATION

#### NEURODIVERSITY ACROSS THE JEWISH LIFESPAN

**Rachel Figursmith**

In our Jewish communities we interface with a range of neurodiversity, involving individuals with strengths and challenges along a continuum of competencies at all stages of life. This course explores the reality that neurodiversity is part of people's lifelong experiences and manifests itself in different ways across the lifespan. We will explore what neurodiversity is, why this is the language of choice, and how this conceptually can shape our interactions with members of our communities. Each week of the semester we will focus on a different stage of life: beginning with young children and reaching all the way up to older adults. We will look at ways in which early childhood supports neurodivergent children and their families; inclusion and self-contained settings in public schools, day schools, and summer camps; the unique experiences of transitioning to adulthood with disabilities; and experiences of neurodivergent individuals as they age.

## HEBREW LANGUAGE

### FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL HEBREW 1

**Harvey Bock**

*Requires permission of the instructor*

This course is an intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with an added emphasis on the morphology that continues to serve in subsequent periods of Hebrew. A basic familiarity with Hebrew is presumed, such as two years of college-level Hebrew or a day-school background.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY

### APPROACHING THE HOLOCAUST

**Barry Mesch**

*Approaching the Holocaust : From antisemitism to genocide - from disbelief to recognition to no options for escape. Perpetrators, victims, bystanders, upstanders.*

We will try to understand what happened and also try to understand “how and why.” We will look at a variety of primary sources as well as an excellent book by Peter Hayes called “WHY - Explaining the Holocaust.” We will also look at responses to the Holocaust – How does Judaism survive after such a catastrophe? And some Christians ask the same question about Christianity – how does it survive? How does the founding of the State of Israel represent a response to the Holocaust? Finally, we will look at a phenomenon taking place in Poland today attempting to educate the younger generation about the Holocaust by putting them in touch with the Jewish history of their own towns and cities. At the same time that antisemitism rears its ugly head throughout the world there are seeds of something different. *Assignments will include readings of history, poetry, videos, etc. There will be a Folder on the website that will encourage you to post URL's or materials that you would recommend to the class.*

### INNER LIFE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM

**David Jaffe**

This course explores inner, personal development and social change activism as an integrated spiritual path. Drawing on *Mussar* and Chassidic literature and the concept of *tikkun hamiddot* (personal ethical and spiritual development), this course examines the connections between spirituality and strategies for social justice organizing and advocacy for transformative social change. Some of the specific areas of exploration will include motivation and self-interest, choice, humility and trust.

## JEWISH THOUGHT

### MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

**David Starr**

This course will explore the writings of major Jewish thinkers living in the modern era and place them in the context of their historical setting. The class will focus on the various ways these thinkers – from Mendelssohn to Buber – understood the dynamic relationship between inherited tradition and modern conceptions of religious life.

### MYSTICAL PRAYER IN JUDAISM

**Arthur Green**

Readings for advanced Hebrew students in R. Meir Ibn Gabbai's *Tola'at Ya'akov*, a sixteenth century Kabbalistic commentary on the daily prayerbook. Background reading will include key concepts of Kabbalistic thought and devotion.

# TEEN LEARNING

## PROZDOR: WHERE JEWISH TEENS THRIVE

Jewish teens in eighth through twelfth grades have been studying Judaic and Hebrew studies together at Prozdor since the 1920s, graduating more than 5,000 students. This fall, we are moving our vibrant learning community online and invite teens from near and far to join us. Prozdor remains a central hub for teen Jewish learning, Modern Hebrew, and lasting community.

Prozdor meets from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM most Sundays, with a Hebrew-only option from 10:40 AM to 12:30 PM, October through May. Tuition for the full program is \$2800 and for Hebrew only is \$1900. *Financial aid and discounts available. Students can choose from the following classes.*

**Register:** [hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/](https://hebrewcollege.edu/fall-2020-community-learning-opportunities/)

**Program Information:** [hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor](https://hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor)

**CONTACT: Rabbi Laura Bellows | [lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu)**

## WHAT CAN THE TALMUD TEACH US ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE?

**Rabbinical Intern Frankie Sandmel**

Sundays 9:45–10:30 AM, October-January

The Early Rabbis lived in a world that was turning upside down, and they were trying to figure out how to rebuild a society that was just and loving. In this class, we'll get a taste of what the Rabbis thought about justice—sharpening our own ideas by wrestling with theirs. Whether you feel like a Talmud expert or you're not even sure what it is, this class will deepen your understanding of the texts that have shaped Judaism for the last 2000 years and push you to think about your own values as you move through the world.

## GID/GXD/G?D: A STUDY OF THE GOD WE DO OR DON'T BELIEVE IN

**Rabbi Laura Bellows**

Sundays 9:45–10:30 AM, October-January

Where and what is God and what role might a divine “hand” have in our lives and in the world? Does God have a body or a gender? In this pluralistic intro to Jewish theology course, we will draw on key sources and thinkers from Torah times to today, along with our own life experiences, as we seek to understand the nature of God, belief, evil, awesomeness, free-will, and the (maybe) afterlife. All beliefs are welcome in this class. Come ready to ask big questions, to be challenged, to listen, and maybe even to find some answers together.

## “JEWISH COOKING”—WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? RULES, RECIPES, AND REGULATIONS THAT BIND US TOGETHER (IN THE KITCHEN)

**Rabbi David Ehrenkranz**

Sundays 9:45–10:30 AM, October-January

Why do some Ashkenazic Jews make ‘Cholent’ but some Sephardic Jews make ‘Hamsin’? Why do some Persian Jews use a lot of lemon in their dishes while the Jews of Poland do not? In this course we will explore what we mean when we say “Jewish” cooking. Is there such a thing, and if so, what is it? We will explore some of the rules of Kashrut (i.e. Kosher laws) and how they impact what we do in the kitchen. Initially, when designing this course, I had planned to make sure that every student had the opportunity to partake of certain delicacies but I had not planned on teaching this course remotely, so to make sure that this will still happen we will have one or two guest chefs who will help us learn how to prepare and cook certain Jewish foods that I think we will all enjoy. In fact, we will do the cooking ourselves in our respective kitchens while zooming. We will also explore and examine the unique traditions of differing Jewish families and how those cooking traditions developed.

## **AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THE JEWS: YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE CONNECTIONS**

**Norm Finkelstein**

Sundays 9:45–10:30 AM, October-January

In every election year, American Jews reflect on the relationship between them and the person occupying the White House. Historically, nearly every President from George Washington to Donald Trump has had a Jewish connection. Together in this class, we will explore what those connections were and what they meant in their time to Jews, a minority group making its way in America. While some connections will not surprise you, such as Washington's famous letter, other situations, positive and negative, surely will. Let's take an unusual but interesting journey together through American presidential history. We will use documents, letters, and video excerpts to piece this story together. Your understanding of the American Presidency will never be the same. *This is a year-long course: 1st Semester, 1789-1865; 2nd Semester, 1868-2021. Students are welcome to sign up for just one semester.*

## **MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW FOR TEENS**

**Mor-Li Hartman, Dikla Giladi, Adva Alpert, and Shilo Geva**

Sundays, 10:40 AM - 12:30 PM, October - May

Hebrew language at Prozdor is a longstanding tradition dating back to the 1920s. The Hebrew curriculum at Prozdor uses the proficiency approach to language instruction with a unique, teen-orientated curriculum and relevant, real-life topical units that maximize learning in the classroom and help students take the next step in their mastery of Hebrew conversation, writing, and comprehension. We offer Hebrew language classes across different levels, from novice learners to advanced speakers and all of our Hebrew classes feature the use of literature, poetry, music, pop culture, and other Israeli cultural resources. We are excited to be building on our spring semester of online learning to launch a robust and dynamic online Hebrew language learning experience for teens this fall, with the option to receive a transcript that many students include in their college applications.

## **SELFISHNESS VS SELFLESSNESS: HOW DO I KNOW HOW TO BALANCE THEM?**

**Rabbi David Ehrenkranz**

Sundays 10:40 AM–11:25 PM, September–January

Every human being struggles with how to balance what they want versus what other people want. And it is not always easy to resolve certain conflicts (parents vs children, boss vs employers, citizens vs government, spouses, teacher vs student, etc.) We will study Jewish texts and see what our tradition says about when to be selfish and when to be selfless, when to set our needs aside for the many, and when the many need to set aside their needs for the few. This is a complex and nuanced class that is going to require close analysis not only of the text, but a close analysis of who we are, and who we wish to become in the future.

## **LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU: HOW JEWS CREATED AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE**

**Norm Finkelstein**

Sundays, 10:40 AM–11:25 PM, September–January

Creative Jewish entertainers have been at the center of American cultural and musical life. We began the twentieth century as learners of American culture and ended it as its leading creators. "Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear" as we explore the development of Jewish life in twentieth century America through the lens of American popular culture from Irving Berlin and George Gershwin to Jerry Seinfeld and from "Yid'I Mit'n Fiddle" to "Fiddler on the Roof." Together, through the sharing of sights and sounds in class, we will take an entertaining and informative journey through a century of Jewish contributions to American music, theater, film, radio and television. Successful completion of this course guarantees students the ability to confidently enjoy shared reminiscences of the "good old days" with grandparents and other older acquaintances.

**MODERN HEBREW AND ISRAELI POETRY: MAKING OUR TEXTS OUR OWN**

**Rabbinic Intern Rafi Ellenson**

Sundays 10:40 AM–11:25 PM, September–January

Both the revival of the Hebrew language in the 19th Century and the establishment of the state of Israel has allowed for a massive burst of creativity in our Jewish textual tradition. Poets from Bialik to Rachel, Amichai to Wallach, and more were all keen to explore Jewish history within the borders of Modern Hebrew and the culture of the new Jewish state. In translation, we will read these poets and more, including poets from Israel’s minority populations, and learn how they used Jewish history and texts to examine their own lives. In addition to discussing poetry and translation, there will also be opportunities to write original poetry.

**PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS, AND ISOLATION IN JEWISH HISTORY: HOW JEWISH COMMUNITIES DEALT WITH THE PLAGUE AND OTHER DISASTERS**

**Rabbi David Ehrenkranz**

Sundays 11:45 AM–12:30 PM, September–January

Throughout human history there have been a number of pandemics and epidemics that deeply impacted us. The Antonine Plague (also known as the Plague of Galen, 165-180 c.e.) Cyprian Plague (3rd century), the Plague of Justinian (6th century), the Cholera epidemics of the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries, and our current Coronavirus Pandemic are just a few we will examine. We will focus on how the various Jewish communities throughout history reacted to these pandemics and what we have learned from the various reactions different communities took to maintain the safety and security of their people. We will also explore what Judaism has to say about how to react spiritually, ethically, and morally to calamities and catastrophes that come our way. We will also discuss if there is a way we can prevent future pandemics. And if we are meticulous in analyzing our data we will collectively send our findings to the CDC and The White House.

**ONE PEOPLE, TWO PATHS: THE JEWS OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES**

**Norm Finkelstein**

Sundays, 11:45 AM–12:30 PM, September–January

Although sharing a similar heritage, beliefs and history, Israeli and American Jews are shaped by unique experiences which define who they are, how they live and what they think. In this course we will look at the evolution of the two societies from 1950–2021. For example, while the Civil Rights Movement occupied American Jewish thought in the 1950s and 1960s, Israelis faced life threatening wars. Together we will share readings, video/film selections and class discussions. We will also explore specific experiences which have shaped both cultures. Some questions we will study include: 1. Who are the American Jews and how do they differ from Israeli Jews? 2. How does the American experience shape our views of Israel? 3. What are the cultural factors that influence us as Americans and Israelis?

**JEWS & WHITENESS: EXPLORING IDENTITY, DIVERSITY, AND RACISM**

**Rabbinic Intern Frankie Sandmel**

Sundays 11:45 AM–12:30 PM, September–January

In this class, no question is too big or small and all identities and experiences are welcome. We’ll look into the roots and realities of antisemitism and racism—how they overlap, where they diverge, and how we each individually are impacted by them. Through historical, contemporary, and creative sources, we’ll wrestle together with some of the big questions of our diverse Jewish community and world: what is the relationship between Jews and whiteness? What is intersectionality? What does it mean to look or act “Jewish” (and who decides)? And where do our own stories fit into this complex landscape of privilege and oppression?

## JEWISH TEEN FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON (JTTFGB)

**CONTACT: Leah Goldstein | [lgoldstein@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lgoldstein@hebrewcollege.edu)**

### **Leah Goldstein**

Sundays, every 3-4 weeks, October-June; \$400

JTTFGB is a year-long program for Jewish ninth through twelfth-grade students from across the Greater Boston Area to develop strong leadership and communication skills, dive deep into Jewish values-driven decision making, learn the ins and outs of professional philanthropy and grant-making through a Jewish lens, and allocate grants to effect real change in the issue areas they care about most. During the first five years of the program, teens have raised almost \$270,000 and awarded nearly 40 grants to organizations that fight child abuse and sexual assault, support refugees, education inequity, environmental justice, mental health, and poverty, among several other causes.

## TEEN BEIT MIDRASH

**CONTACT: Rabba Claudia Marbach | [cmarbach@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:cmarbach@hebrewcollege.edu)**

### **Rabba Claudia Marbach**

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 PM, September-May; \$2,400. *Financial aid and discounts are available.*

Hebrew College Teen Beit Midrash (TBM) is an intimate and challenging program for teens in eighth through twelfth grades of all denominations who are looking for a pluralistic and inclusive place to explore their identity as a Jew and deepen their knowledge. Founded by Hebrew College alumna Rabbi Shahar Colt, the program brings together a dedicated and diverse group of Jewish teens who are excited to delve into traditional Talmudic text and find contemporary meaning relevant to our lives. We open the library of our Jewish heritage to help teens understand our multi-voiced, nuanced tradition and gain the skills to reach their own conclusions. Talmud study enables us to hone our reasoning and persuasive argument skills that are applicable to all aspects of our lives. Together, we study, share dinner together, build community and learn and have fun. Together, we study, share dinner (when in person), build community, learn seriously, and have fun.

## GESHER ISRAEL SEMINAR

### **Rabbi Laura Bellows**

Sundays, 12:30–2 PM, every 2–3 weeks, October-May; \$800. *Scholarships available.*

This discussion-driven seminar, launched in partnership with The Tent at Temple Israel and in conversation with teens and educators in Haifa, meets every few weeks to explore Israeli culture, history, identity, social issues, and current events and to develop the skills and knowledge to engage in nuanced discussion about Israel. This online seminar is open to 15 motivated tenth through twelfth graders ready to learn from dynamic educators, visiting scholars, virtual tours, and each other throughout the year.

## PROZDOR IMMERSIVES

### **Various Instructors**

2–3 hours, November 22, January 17, and April 25; Tuition is \$75 for three; \$30 for one

Join seventh through twelfth graders from across the country for a dive deep into one of five Immersive Jewish learning tracks. Immersives meet only three times during the year (November 22, January 17, and April 25) for two-three lively hours online. 2020-2021 track options include: Tech Innovation Lab, Music & Creative Writing Studio, Tzedek Social Justice Team, Cooking and Culture, and Debates in Law & Ethics. Tuition is \$75 for all three or \$30 for one.

# LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

at Hebrew College



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS for teens and adults

**Prozdor Immersives** *middle and high school*

**Prozdor, Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston, Geshar Israel Seminar, Teen Beith Midrash** *high school*

**Open Circle Jewish Learning** *conversation-based learning, with groups for 20's and 30's, as well as adults of all ages*

**Parenting & Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens** *new parents, parents of teens and tweens, grandparents*

**Me'ah and Me'ah Select** *rigorous learning over two years or an academic semester*

**Rabbinical, Cantorial & Graduate Education Classes** *non-credit courses open to the community*

**Hebrew Language Ulpan** *intensive Hebrew language*

**Professional Development** *Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership, Congregational Education Initiative, and more...*

## GRADUATE AND ORDINATION PROGRAMS for Jewish leaders and learners

**Rabbinical Ordination · Cantorial Ordination · Rav-Hazzan Ordination**

**Master of Jewish Education · Master of Arts in Jewish Studies**



"Participating in the Open Circles course was a gift I gave to myself... I experienced renewed delight and connection within Jewish community and with learning *lishmah* (for the sake of learning). If we Jewish educators are to 'talk the talk' — encouraging others to invest in their Jewish education and Jewish engagement, then we ourselves must first 'walk the walk' — investing in our own personal Jewish journeys."

- Arinne Braverman, educator, consultant, community organizer, and Open Circle Jewish Learning participant

**HEBREW COLLEGE** is a Boston-area institution of Jewish learning and leadership with a dual focus on community learning and graduate leadership — each of which strengthens the other — within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

