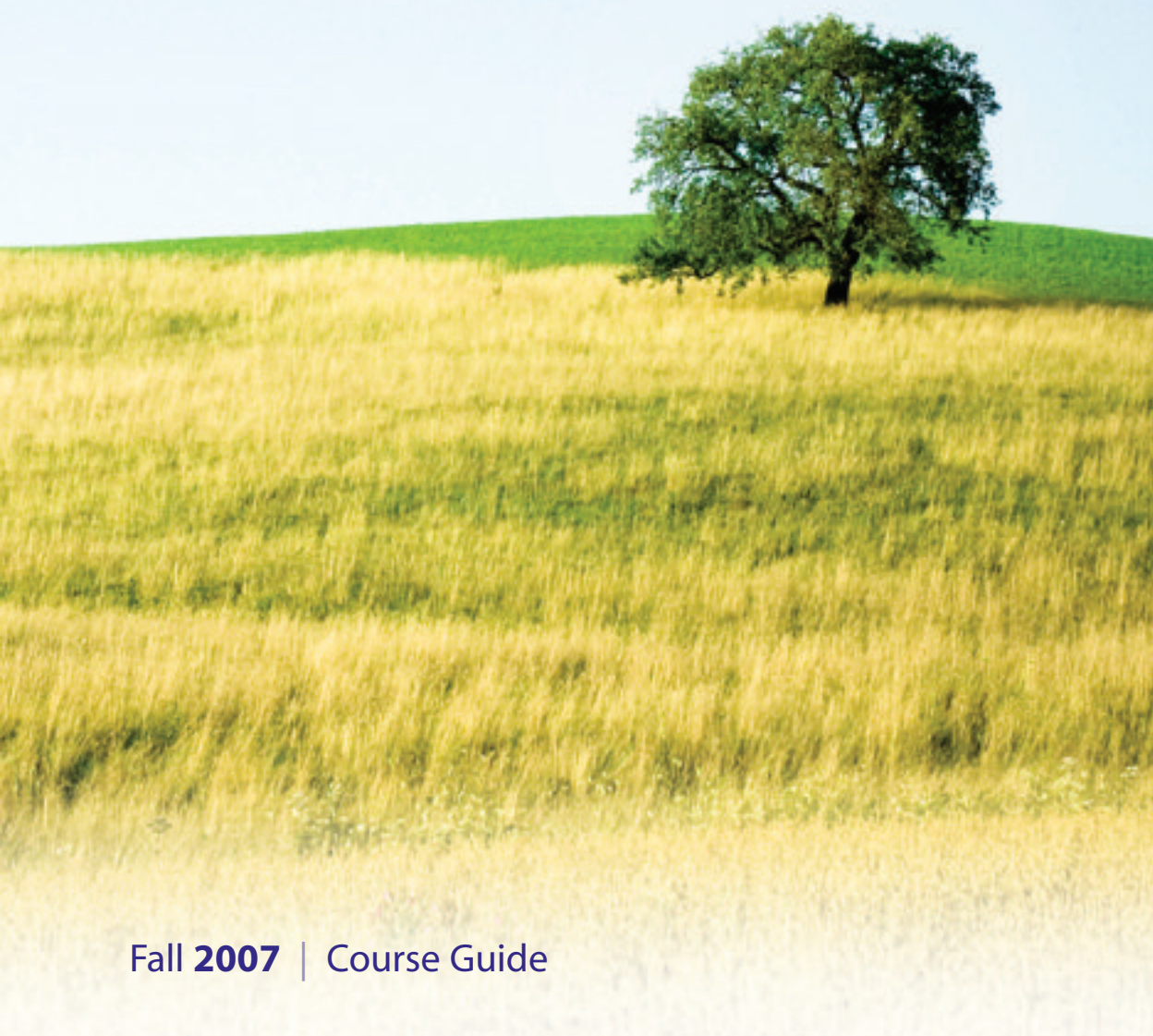


CELEBRATING  
*Seven years*

# SKIRBALL

The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El



# Shmitah

## Your Sabbatical Year and Ours

The new Jewish year, 5768, is both the Skirball Center's seventh year and a *shmitah*, or sabbatical, year.

In the Jewish tradition, the *shmitah* year is when farmers in the Land of Israel let their fields lie fallow in the seventh year after six years of planting and harvesting. Farmers let produce grow naturally from the previous season's planting without any human

intervention, and then, instead of harvesting the crops, rich and poor alike come and take what they need for their immediate use. Despite the distance that most of us have from hands-on farming, the idea of letting land rest resonates with us today, as we discuss contemporary food issues such as sustainability, organic pesticides, crop rotation, and supporting locally grown food to reduce carbon emissions. The idea of redistributing food from the wealthy landowner to the landless poor also resonates with us today, in an age when many rely on food pantries for their very subsistence.

As part of the Bible's incremental process to eliminate slavery altogether, slaves are freed permanently from their masters during the *shmitah* year. In the Bible, slavery can only exist under very specific circumstances, and is only for a period of six years, which necessarily reduces permanent dependence on slaves. While slavery is an ethically perverse idea to us, what it means to treat workers fairly is a part of our daily discourse as a society.

Finally, in the seventh year, loans and debts are forgiven and some land that was sold in the intervening six years returns to its previous owner. While unbridled capitalism would reject such a stark redistribution of wealth, in our own time legislators and universities are discussing loan forgiveness programs as a way to ensure that recent graduates who wish to pursue careers in public service are able to do so.

These three freedoms—for the land, for people, and from debt—serve to remind us that although we may feel that we are in charge of the food we eat, people we employ, and money we make, they are all beyond our ultimate control. The *shmitah* year is inaugurated by a public reading of the Torah, called *hak'hel*, the ultimate inclusive, free,

public education. *Hak'hel* serves as a further reminder that it is text, not land, money, or employees, that we turn to in order to find meaning in our lives.

Throughout this guide, explore passages from the Bible from which we learn about the concept of *shmitah*. Read texts that mention some of our analogous struggles with these issues of land, food, work, and redistribution of wealth.

Just as a fallow period regenerates the land, the sabbatical year renews the human mind—and lays the groundwork for a richer future harvest. Celebrate *shmitah* and Skirball's seventh anniversary by making it your year for a *personal* sabbatical, during which you take some time to study and reflect on Jewish texts, including the Bible, Midrash, and Talmud, short stories and films, and historical, theological, and spiritual texts.

"The mighty in strength that fulfill His word" (Psalms 103:20). To whom does the Scripture refer? R. Isaac said, "To those who are willing to observe the Year of Release. In the way of the world, a man may be willing to observe a commandment for a day, a week, a month, but is he likely to continue to do so through the remaining days of the year? But throughout that year this mighty man sees his field declared ownerless, his fences broken down, and his produce consumed by others, yet he continues to give up his produce without saying a word. Can you conceive a person mightier than such as he?"

—MIDRASH LEVITICUS RABBAH  
1:1

# What's NEW...

P. 16



## *After Words:*

New Perspectives on the  
Weekly Torah Portion

**Thursday nights**  
**Beginning October 11**  
**From 7 to 8 PM**

An exciting new lecture series given  
by a diverse group of intellectuals,  
writers, artists, and scholars. Come  
once or come every week!

Visit [www.adultjewishlearning.org/afterwords](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org/afterwords) for the full schedule

P. 14

## New Israeli Cinema



In response to  
student request, we  
are launching a  
new film series  
taking place on  
**Wednesday nights**  
**at 7 PM.**

Come once or once every week!  
Presented by Isaac Zablocki.

P. 7, 13

## For the first time at Skirball— **ADVANCED CLASSES!**

For those with knowledge of Modern  
Hebrew, come to the hour-long

### **"Advanced Hebrew Literature"**

course on Wednesday evenings at  
6 PM to discuss the best of Israeli short  
stories and poetry. For those with basic  
familiarity with Rabbinic texts, come to

### **"Holy Land": Talmudic Law and Lore About the Land of Israel"**

on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM to find  
out what makes land holy and what  
the Rabbis who lived in Babylon had  
to say about Diaspora Jewry.

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## Scholar-in-Residence: Dr. Neil Gillman



We invite you  
to take one or  
many courses,  
taught by  
noted scholar  
and master  
teacher  
Dr. Gillman  
this fall.

# at Skirball?

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Advanced

Beginners

Arts and Literature

Bible

Contemporary Issues

Hebrew

Israel

History

Jewish Thought

Rabbinic Texts

Cooperative Learning Communities



**T**he Skirball Center links liberal Jews to Jewish study that is relevant and meaningful. At Skirball, Jewish learning is infused with excitement and depth, complexity and diversity. Skirball enhances the search for what it means to be a human being and a Jew.

## General Information

### Contact Information

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Fax 212.570.0826

Email [info@adultjewishlearning.org](mailto:info@adultjewishlearning.org)

[www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org)

### Getting There

Courses at the Skirball Center are held at 10 East 66th Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues in Manhattan, unless otherwise noted.

### By Bus:

M1, M2, M3, M4, M18, M66, M72

### By Subway:

N/R/W 5th Ave./59th St.

4/5/6 59th St.

or 68th St./Hunter College

F Lexington Ave./63rd St.

### Scholarship

Limited scholarships are available. Contact the Skirball Center to inquire. All inquiries remain strictly confidential. If you would like to contribute to our new scholarship fund, please indicate so when you register.

### Refund Policy

A full refund may be requested after the first class meeting or if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. After the second class, a credit of 75% will be given that may be used towards any course and is good for one year. No credit will be given after the third class. The annual \$20 registration fee is non-refundable.

### Missed Classes

Tuition cannot be pro-rated if you cannot attend all class sessions. The Skirball Center is unable to record class sessions that you miss. Please arrange to borrow notes or have a classmate record the class for you, instead. Photocopies of hand-outs from missed classes will be provided in person or via mail, upon request, and without charge.

### Library Privileges

All students enrolled in a Skirball Center class have borrowing privileges at the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library, Congregation Emanuel's own expansive collection. For library information, including hours and information about the collection, call 212.744.1400, ext. 361, or visit [www.emanuelnyc.org/library](http://www.emanuelnyc.org/library).

### The JBI Library

The Jewish Braille Institute can make it possible for any visually impaired or blind person to participate in courses at the Skirball Center. Given reasonable lead time, JBI can prepare relevant reading materials in the appropriate format. For more information or to volunteer in the JBI studios call **The JBI Library: 800.433.1531**.

### Administration

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*Assistant Director*

Judith Berdy,  
*Administrator*

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Barry Shrage

Dr. Ronald B. Sobel

Leah Strigler

Marcia Waxman

# Sunday

## DAYTIME CLASSES

### Freedom for the Land

“When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Lord. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath of the Lord: You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the undergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your untrimmed vines; it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. But you may eat whatever the land during its Sabbath will produce—you, your male and female slaves, the hired and bound laborers who live with you, and your cattle and the beasts in your land may eat all its yield.”

—LEVITICUS 25:2-7

“We do not inherit this land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

—NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB

### Four Theological Sundays

With **DR. NEIL GILLMAN**

10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Spend four Sundays discussing four central issues in Jewish theology: revelation, God, suffering, and the afterlife. Half of each session will comprise an overview of classical Jewish thinking on each issue presented by noted theologian Dr. Neil Gillman. The second half of each session will be an opportunity to craft a personal statement of theological belief and share it with fellow students. All participants will be required to participate in the writing half of the workshop, so come prepared to learn, think, create, and share! Participants are encouraged to enroll for all four sessions, but registration for individual sessions is permitted.

#### Fall Semester

**Revelation:** Sunday, October 14

**God:** Sunday, November 18

#### Winter Semester

**Suffering:** Sunday, February 3

**The Afterlife:** Sunday, March 9



NOTE: Space is limited. Register early.

### Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero

**DANNY FINGEROTH**

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Oct 21**

Is it significant or mere coincidence that the most well-known superheroes of the past seventy years were created almost entirely by young, American, Jewish men of Eastern European ancestry? Learn how the creators' Jewish backgrounds may have helped make superheroes the most familiar American popular culture icons of all. Find out about Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, two Cleveland high-school pals who created Superman and his nebbishy alter ego, Clark Kent; Bob Kane and Bill Finger, the duo who created Batman in a Bronx apartment; and Will Eisner, who gave the world the landmark superhero, The Spirit. Finally, discuss Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, who invented most of the major Marvel superheroes, including the X-Men and the Fantastic Four.

### Jewish Musicians, Their Emancipation, and Subsequent Destruction in the Third Reich

**DR. JASMIN BEY COWIN**

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Oct 28**

Take a journey through the history of Jewish emancipation and assimilation via the lives of Jewish composers, conductors, and musicians during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Delve into Felix Mendelssohn's dream of integration, and study the place music had in the concentration camps during the Second World War. From another angle, learn about conductors and composers who were friendly to the Nazis but later denied any involvement. Sources will include video footage of performances, including Herbert von Karajan's conducting of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra at the height of the Nazi regime. Enjoy a live performance of Jewish music that was performed in Europe before, during, and after the Third Reich. Conclude with a look at the influence of Jewish musicians on the contemporary music world.

## With Ehad HaAm: Still at the Crossroads

DR. ALFRED GOTTSCHALK

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Nov 4**

Ehad HaAm, born Asher Hirsch Ginsberg, grew up in a Hasidic home in Skvyra, Russia. Steeped in Jewish traditional learning, he broke from it as he read medieval Jewish philosophers who were forced to defend Judaism in the Islamic world of their day. HaAm developed a philosophy of cultural Zionism opposed, in some ways, to Herzl's political Zionism. Ehad HaAm's cultural Zionism furthered such modern Zionist projects as the Hebrew University and revival of Hebrew as a modern language. Studying Ehad HaAm's *At the Crossroads* and *The Supremacy of Reason*, answer: Does Zionism have contemporary significance? How has cultural Zionism influenced modern religious movements such as Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism?

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "*Israeli Politics and Culture*," p.12.

## Hannah and Samuel in Jewish and Christian Interpretation

MARCIE LENK

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Nov 11**

The stories of the barrenness of Hannah and the miraculous birth of her son the prophet Samuel are interpreted and retold in early Jewish and Christian interpretation. For the rabbis, Hannah is the model for Jews at prayer, while in the *Gospel of Luke*, Mary's prayer seems to be modeled on Hannah's prayer. After doing a close reading of the story in *1 Samuel*, examine ancient and modern texts written by Jews and Christians that continue to make meaning out of this important story.

## Shedding Light on Hanukah: The Origins and Development of the Holiday

YORAM BITTON

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Dec 2**

On Hanukah we light the menorah in honor of the miracle of the oil that was meant to last one day but lasted eight, yet we sing about the miraculous military victory of the Maccabees. What really happened? Why do we celebrate Hanukah? Study original sources about Hanukah, including Rabbinic texts and portions of the *Book of Maccabees*, to understand both of these events and their impact on Jewish culture. Discuss how a holiday about a military victory and the rededication of a Temple developed into a holiday of light, including its shared roots with holidays of light in other cultures.

## Science and Religion: Why Not Both?

DR. ROBERT POLLACK

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Dec 9**

Science and religion alike spring from human curiosity, but differ in the relative weight they give to facts and to values. Not surprisingly, they do not always reach the same conclusions. Can a full understanding of any important human question emerge without incorporating the apparently contradictory conclusions of science and religion? Address this large question with specific cases including DNA, evolution, and the soul.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "*Medicine, Ethics, and Religion*," p.11.



## Freedom for the Land

"And should you ask, 'What are we to eat in the seventh year, if we may neither sow nor gather in our crops?' I will ordain my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it shall yield a crop sufficient for three years. When you sow in the eighth year, you will still be eating old grain of that crop; you will be eating the old until the ninth year, until its crops come in. But the land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me."

—LEVITICUS 25:20–23

—  
"If you are planning for one year, grow rice. If you are planning for twenty years, grow trees. If you are planning for centuries, grow men."

—CHINESE PROVERB

**SUNDAY** *continued from page 5*

## Temple Emanu-El: Architecture, Sacred Objects, and History

**MARK H. HEUTLINGER AND DAVID WACHTEL**

10:00 AM–2:00 PM | **Dec 16**

Explore the life of Jewish ritual art—its meaning, origins, and development through Jewish history—and then experience Jewish ritual life as it exists today in the recently restored, magnificent sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El. Using the collection of the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica, enjoy a unique museum experience with close-up examinations of rare objects such as a medieval Hanukkah lamp and 18th-century Torah ornaments. Get once-in-a-lifetime access to objects not on display at the museum. Then, take an architectural tour of the restored sanctuary and get the hidden story behind many of its features, including its stained glass windows and beautiful mosaic art.



photo: Brian Rose

# Monday

## EVENING CLASSES


### The Flowering of Jewish Culture in the Islamic World

**DR. ARNOLD FRANKLIN**

*The Jane Moyse Gilder Course in Jewish History*

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct 15, 22, 29 Nov 5, 12, 26 Dec 3, 10**

Many are familiar with such medieval luminaries as Saadiah Gaon, Judah HaLevi, and Moses Maimonides, but did you know that their work was the product of a creative interplay between Judaism and Islam? Explore how some of the most influential formulations of Judaism were shaped by interactions with medieval Islamic culture. Through readings from these thinkers as well as others, focus on the way that ideas originating in the Islamic world stimulated developments in Jewish law, philosophy, mysticism, and prayer. Broaden your appreciation of the great intellectual achievements of the Jewish Middle Ages and deepen your understanding of the historic connections between religions that seem to share so little today.

 **NOTE:** Unlike other Monday classes, this class will not meet on November 19 and will meet on December 10.




## Classical Hebrew Grammar

DR. DAVID M. POSNER

6:30–7:30 PM | **Oct** 1, 10, 22, 24, 29 **Nov** 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 26, 28  
**Dec** 3, 5, 10, 17, 19 **Jan** 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28, 30 **Feb** 6, 11, 13, 20, 25, 27  
**Mar** 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 **Apr** 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28, 30  
**May** 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21

Join Temple Emanu-El's senior rabbi for a year-long intensive Biblical Hebrew study experience. This course offers a highly structured presentation of the grammar of biblical Hebrew. Through constant reference to comparative Semitic languages, especially Arabic, Aramaic, and even proto-Semitic, understand the broad and underlying concepts of Hebrew and Semitic grammar, rather than relying on rote-memorization. The text used will be *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*, by J. Weingreen. Specially prepared materials will supplement the text, and weekly homework assignments will be given. Familiarity with the Hebrew print alphabet is the only prerequisite.

 **NOTE:** This course will meet on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** twice weekly from October 1 through May 21. This course begins before the official start of the Skirball Center's Fall semester.


## “Holy Land”: Talmudic Law and Lore About the Land of Israel


DR. MOTTI ARAD

*The Harrison S. Kravis Course in Jewish Studies*

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct** 15, 22, 29 **Nov** 5, 12, 19, 26 **Dec** 3

The Torah pictures God's land stretching from Turkey to Egypt, given through a covenant to Israel, a holy nation living a life of Torah in the holy land cleansed of idol worshippers. How did the Rabbis reconcile that biblical view with a reality so different in every way? How was a Jew to treat gentile inhabitants of Roman Palestine? What should be the attitude toward the Roman Emperor and his cult? What makes a place holy? Does it matter where a Jew resides? How does the Babylonian Talmud deal with Jews who live outside the borders of the Land of Israel, given that it, itself, was compiled outside those borders?

 **NOTE:** This is an upper-level course. The prerequisite for registering is completion of the Skirball Center's three-year IYUN certificate program or basic familiarity with Rabbinic literature. Call 212.507.9580 with questions or concerns.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see “Early Morning Talmud: Rereading Gender,” p.16.

## Jewish Life Revealed Through Short Stories

ANNE ROIPHE

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct** 15, 22, 29 **Nov** 5, 12, 19, 26 **Dec** 3

Delve into seven remarkable Jewish stories that reflect the struggle and the joy of the Jewish experience in the New and Old Worlds, ending with a story from contemporary Israel. With distinguished author Anne Roiphe, read and discuss the tales of such masters as Babel, Bernard Malamud, Phillip Roth, and Nathan Englander, watching for the conflict between cultures and peoples and observing how the concerns of Jewish protagonists change over time. Examine the faces of Jews throughout the world, intimately portrayed throughout time, and talk about each story as both art and history.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see “David: Saint, Villain, Lover, King,” p.15.

## Freedom for People

"If a fellow Hebrew, man or woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall set him free. When you set him free, do not let him go empty-handed: Furnish him out of the flock, threshing floor, and vat, with which the Lord your God has blessed you. Bear in mind that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I enjoin this commandment upon you today."

—DEUTERONOMY 15:12–15

"But what more oft, in nations grown corrupt, And by their voices brought to servitude, Than to love bondage more than liberty— Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty—"

—JOHN MILTON,  
SAMSON AGONISTES


MONDAY *continued from page 7*

## Artists' Beit Midrash

TOBI KAHN AND RABBI LEON A. MORRIS

7:00–9:00 PM | Oct 15, 22, 29 Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 Dec 3

Apply your artistic talents to the theme of "Service and Sacrifice" (explained on p.17) as you explore Jewish sources, inspiring you to create new visual commentaries on the ancient texts of our tradition. Together with other artists, share previously created work and explore, individually and as a group, the imaginative and creative possibilities of Jewish teachings. Now in its sixth year, this unusual experience is co-facilitated by a rabbi and a renowned artist whose own work blends modern art with the life of the spirit.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "Jewish Questions in Contemporary Art," p. 16.

 [www.adultjewishlearning.org/gallery](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org/gallery) for images and texts from last year's Artists' Beit Midrash



## Openings: What Is the Relevance of Judaism Today?

*with* Rabbi Jan Uhrbach

Oct 15 Nov 12 Dec 10 Jan 14 Feb 11 Mar 10 Apr 14 May 12

Participate in a monthly dinner with peers, followed by a lively discussion about the role of Judaism in our generation. Join others in searching for the threads within the tapestry of Jewish tradition that are most compelling for us today. What resonates most meaningfully, what is helpfully counter-cultural, and what is simply alienating? Each session will include a text study presenting a variety of approaches to one of the core issues underlying what it means to be a Jew, designed to assist us in finding relevance and clarifying our personal beliefs and commitments. Discuss: theology and a range of approaches to God, authority and authenticity of Jewish practice, tensions between communal norms and individual needs, and all the different ways we self-define our relationship to Judaism—religious, cultural, ethical, spiritual, intellectual, nationalistic, universalistic, and others. Explore with an eye to our particular generation's response, and discover how each of us can find our place within Judaism.


## Women in the Bible: Ancient and Modern Approaches


DR. IRIT KOREN

*The Leon Finley Course in Jewish Studies*

7:30–9:00 PM | **Oct 15, 22, 29** **Nov 5, 12, 19, 26** **Dec 3**

Discover the remarkable stories of extraordinary women in the Bible and see how they were later interpreted in both flattering and unflattering ways by the rabbis. Using your own personal understanding of the women in question, critique the ancient and modern texts that relate to the women of the Bible. Study contemporary psychological, social, and feminist literature, and midrashic sources in order to expand both the depth and breadth of the Biblical text. Using an interdisciplinary, critical approach, unpack cultural and modern references to the women of the Bible found in poetry, art, and film.

 **NOTE:** This course features all new material and is appropriate for students who have taken previous courses on this topic. Open to men and women.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see “Early Morning Talmud: Rereading Gender,” p. 16.

*An engaging study experience designed...*

*For 30- and 40-somethings*

- Discussion and debate.
- Dinner and conversation.
- Join with other 30- and 40-something Jewish New Yorkers for a meaningful and stimulating evening.
- 7:00 PM dinner
- 7:30 PM–9:00 PM Study and Discussion
- Once a month for eight sessions.
- [www.adultjewish-learning.org/openings](http://www.adultjewish-learning.org/openings) for more information

*Note: you cannot register for individual sessions.  
Price includes dinner.*

## Openings: Jews and Politics

Each session will be led by an author of one of the essays in *Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice*, to be published in October 2007.

**Oct 29 Nov 26 Dec 17 Jan 28 Feb 25 Mar 31 Apr 28 May 26**

Participate in a monthly dinner with peers, followed by a lively discussion about the intersection of Judaism and politics, especially relevant during this year’s run-up to the 2008 presidential election. Do you wish you had meaningful intellectual and spiritual foundations for your deep-felt feelings about the role of economic justice, immigration reform, or welfare in the United States? Wish that it was safe for both Democrats and Republicans to discuss the role of religion in politics and Jewish life without being accused of religious fundamentalism? Alternately, do you think that religion has nothing of value to say about politics? Study Jewish texts that relate to these issues and engage in spirited discussions covering the historical, political, and theological dimensions of Jewish political engagement. Bring your own opinions to the table and open yourself up to learning something new along the way.



# Tuesday

## DAYTIME CLASS

### Heschel’s *The Sabbath*

DR. NEIL GILLMAN

4:30–6:00 PM | Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4

*The Sabbath* is one of Abraham Joshua Heschel’s earliest books, his shortest, and his most accessible to the non-initiated reader. While it deals with both the law and the lore surrounding the Sabbath, it is also an attempt to explicate how and why ritual observance is essential not only for theological reasons and not only for Jews, but because we are all human beings who live under the constant, inescapable rule of time. Find out how Jewish ritual that might sometimes feel alien to us allows us to forge intimate connections with God. In a wonderful entree into Heschel’s theology, see how some of the themes Heschel introduced here became central in his later writings.

## EVENING CLASSES

### Hebrew: In the Original, Level 1

MICHAL NACHMANY

6:00–7:30 PM | Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4

“In the Original” is designed for those who want to read the Bible and other Hebrew texts in the original. This course is for those who do not yet know the alphabet or how to read phonetically. Aided by a dynamic, patient, and masterful teacher, you will learn both of those skills in this class, and even begin to understand a bit of the Bible, prayer book, and more—in the original, Hebrew!

### Theologies of Revelation

DR. NEIL GILLMAN

*The Pincus Family Course in Jewish Studies*

6:30–8:00 PM | Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4

Many of us were taught at some point that “God gave the Torah to Israel” but what, precisely, do “gave” and “Torah” mean? Does the authority of the Jewish tradition stem from God or the people, and what difference does it make? Study various theories of revelation from the Orthodox to the liberal. Dip into the works of theologians from Norman Lamm to Mordecai Kaplan, with forays into the theological writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Eugene Borowitz, and Neil Gillman.

### American Jewish History: A Survey Course

LISA KOGEN

6:30–8:00 PM | Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4

Explore how the American Jewish experience developed and changed over three centuries from the arrival of first Jews in America in 1654 to the present. Examine the critical moments and issues that helped to create a new and unique Jewish identity in the new world. Topics will include Jewish civil equality, immigration, the rise of Jewish institutions and organizations, Jewish religious diversity, political activism, and cultural creativity.

## Freedom for People

“What the woman who labors wants is the right to live, not simply exist—the right to life as the rich woman has the right to life, and the sun and music and art. You have nothing that the humblest worker has not a right to have also. The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too. Help, you women of privilege, give her the ballot to fight with.”

—ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN,  
GARMENT WORKER AND  
LABOR ORGANIZER, 1912

“Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

## Food For Thought: Jews, Food, and Contemporary Life

NIGEL SAVAGE

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct** 16, 23, 30 **Nov** 6, 13, 20, 27 **Dec** 4

On one side we have the laws of kashrut, food blessings, and three thousand years of Jewish food traditions. On the other side we have obesity, genetically modified foods, Michael Pollan, and *Fast Food Nation*. Explore the intersection between Jewish food traditions and the current discussion raging about food, the environment, and sustainable lifestyles. Discuss gratitude, mindfulness, and the practices of meditative eating and blessing food. Find out what bread has to do with civilization and what Judaism and contemporary psychology have to say about eating together.



This course is co-sponsored by Hazon and based on *Food For Thought*, Hazon's new curriculum about Jews, food, and contemporary life.

## Medicine, Ethics, and Religion: Bio-Medical Issues in the Brave New World

RABBI MARLA J. FELDMAN

7:00–8:30 PM | **Oct** 16, 23, 30 **Nov** 6, 13, 20, 27 **Dec** 4

Explore, with a rabbi and lawyer, the Jewish and American legal systems as they pertain to bio-medical issues, with a particular focus on reproductive issues (including artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, and abortion), stem cell research, cloning, genetic testing and screening, end of life issues, organ donation, and allocation of medical resources. Wrestle with ethical dilemmas that arise around these issues and find out what the Jewish legal tradition has to say about these personal and communal issues.



NOTE: While open to all, this class is geared towards medical professionals.



**Interested in this course?** Also see “What Makes Jewish Ethics Jewish?” p. 13.

## Bible and Midrash Through a Psychoanalytic Lens

DR. TSVI BLANCHARD

7:00–8:30 PM | **Oct** 16, 23, 30 **Nov** 6, 13, 20, 27 **Dec** 4

With a rabbi, psychologist, and philosopher, seek a conception of psycho-spirituality based in the relationship between people and God, between one person and another, and between one person and him/herself, as expressed in the Bible and Midrash. Discuss Jacob's and Moses' family dynamics through a psychoanalytic lens, while delving into what the Rabbis had to say about their complicated family ties. The only requirements are a willingness to share your personal and professional experience and a positive attitude toward the contributions of traditional Jewish text study to conversations about important life issues.



NOTE: While open to all, this class is geared toward psychotherapists.


TUESDAY *continued from page 11*

## Bad Boys and Fast Women: The Book of Judges

### DR. DIANE M. SHARON

*The Hans A. Vogelstein Course in Jewish Studies*7:00–8:30 PM | **Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 27 Dec 4, 11**

The *Book of Judges* has more in common with a supermarket tabloid than you might think: What illegitimate son of a leader went down in flames? What anonymous concubine should have stayed in her father's house instead of following the wrong man? What theological message could possibly be encoded in these scandalous headlines? Bring fresh eyes to a close reading of selected sections of this ancient text, paying special attention to the ways literary devices such as satire, hyperbole, humor, and poetry are used to highlight divine will and human perversity.

 **NOTE:** Unlike other Tuesday classes, this class will not meet on November 20 and will meet on December 11.

## Writers' Beit Midrash: Creative Non-Fiction

### SHELLY R. FREDMAN

7:00–9:00 PM | **Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4**

Join a group of creative non-fiction and memoir writers to explore texts that inspire and amaze us, encourage us to wrestle with meaning, and stimulate the connections between our writing and our lives. The Writers' Beit Midrash includes text study, in which we will delve into the theme of "Service and Sacrifice" (explained on p. 17), and a workshop, in which students will receive critique and support from a professional writer and fellow students. Our engaging discussions will spur creativity and spark imaginative exchange. Interested applicants should submit a writing sample to [sample@adultjewishlearning.org](mailto:sample@adultjewishlearning.org) with their registration.

## Israeli Politics and Culture: Answer All Your Questions While Improving Your Hebrew

### MICHAL NACHMANY

7:30–9:00 PM | **Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4**

Are you interested in Israeli politics but have been frustrated by your inability to read Israeli newspapers? Do you have a burning desire to know what the Histadrut is and why it determines if garbage is collected or the banks are open? Working from words you already understand, broaden and deepen your knowledge of Israeli politics and culture. This class is appropriate both for students who can read and understand simple Hebrew and for those who are a bit more advanced and want to improve their comprehension. Texts will include *Shaar Lamatchil* and articles, depending on your proficiency, from *Yediot Acharonot* and *Ma'ariv*.

## From Groucho to Gershwin: Jews and American Culture

### LISA KOGEN

*The William Rosenwald and Ruth Israels Rosenwald Course in Contemporary Jewish History*8:15–9:45 PM | **Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Dec 4**

The Jewish contribution to culture in the twentieth century is greatly disproportionate to Jews' numbers. What accounts for this? How and why have Jews so influenced music, theater, art, and film in America? Topics will include such themes as how *the Three Stooges* eviscerated social correctness, the art of Ben Shahn extolled the worker, and Woody Allen made existentialist philosophy funny.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "*Disguised as Clark Kent*," p. 4.

## Freedom from Debt

"Every seventh year, you shall practice remission of debts. ... Every creditor shall remit the due that he claims from his fellow; he shall not dun his fellow or kinsman, for the remission proclaimed is of the Lord.... Do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. ... Beware lest you harbor the base thought, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is approaching,' so that you are mean to your needy kinsman and give him nothing.... Give to him readily and have no regrets when you do so, for in return the Lord your God will bless you in all your efforts and in all your undertakings. For there will never cease to be needy ones in your land, which is why I command you: open your hand to the poor and needy kinsman in your land."

—DEUTERONOMY 15:1–11



# Wednesday

## DAYTIME CLASS

### Rediscovering the Weekly Torah Portion

ARLENE AGUS

12:30–2:00 PM | **Oct** 17, 24, 31 **Nov** 7, 14, 28 **Dec** 5, 12

Each week in communities throughout the world Jews read an identical section of the Torah in an annual cycle that is both study and ritual. Delve deeply into the biblical text, and examine classical and contemporary commentators in light of the disciplines of science, architecture, art, philosophy, and mysticism. Analyze the story of the founding family, as God and Abraham find and test each other, alternately fulfill and fail each other, and ultimately collaborate to transform the Israelite people into God's model nation.

 **NOTE:** This course covers different material each year.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "AfterWords," p. 16.


## EVENING CLASSES

### Advanced Hebrew Literature

MICHAL NACHMANY

6:00–7:00 PM | **Oct** 18, 25, **Nov** 1, 8, 15, 29, **Dec** 6, 13

Literature is a window to the soul of individuals and their societies. Reading and discussing short stories will help us reveal the layers of each soul and of Israeli society at different times. Join other fluent and semi-fluent Hebrew-speakers in reading stories and poetry by Etgar Keret, Savion Livrect, Aharon Megeed, and others. This class is a wonderful opportunity to brush up on your Hebrew or to regain long-abandoned skills in a small, intimate, supportive environment.

 **NOTE:** This is an upper-level course. The prerequisite for registering is semi-fluency in conversational Hebrew and in reading Hebrew literature. Native-speakers welcome. Call 212.507.9580 with questions or concerns.

### Classical Hebrew Grammar

DR. DAVID M. POSNER

6:30–7:30 PM | On **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**

See p. 7 for listing.

### What Makes Jewish Ethics Jewish?

ARLENE AGUS

*The Hortense Jordan Course in Ethics*

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct** 17, 24, 31 **Nov** 7, 14, 28 **Dec** 5, 12

Do you consider fair trade practices when buying your morning coffee? What levels of risk do American and Jewish law require of us when a stranger needs help? How are we to make hard choices when moral principles collide? The biblical account of the creation of the first human in the likeness of God gave rise to the distinctive Jewish notion of *imitatio dei*, imitating God in our treatment of people. Thus, Jewish ethical instruction is inseparable from ritual behavior. Examine case histories of dilemmas in medical, professional, and personal ethics in light of classical and modern Jewish teachings.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see "Medicine, Ethics, and Religion," p. 11.

WEDNESDAY *continued from page 13*

A Psalm for All Seasons

DR. FREEMA GOTTLIEB

6:30–8:00 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

Outside the door of an operating room, in a bomb shelter, during labor, and in the thick of the fight, Jews and gentiles alike have turned to the *Book of Psalms*. Amid new technologies to cope with contemporary realities of aging and chronic disease, this resource speaks to us still. While these poems bear the author/editor imprint of David, Israel's greatest king, they have also served for thousands of years as the liturgical voice of the entire Jewish community. Reciting Psalms in a certain order on a regular basis is said to bring God into human affairs. Focusing on a few selected texts, explore the special impact of Psalms in shaping our spiritual life.

Making Sense of Sacrifice: Recovering  
Difficult and Challenging Texts for  
Contemporary Judaism

RABBI LEON A. MORRIS

6:30–8:15 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

For most contemporary Jews, the idea of animal sacrifices is an anathema. The notion that God is located in one central Temple is objectionable; burning animals in service of God seems unnecessarily cruel. Yet it is not just contemporary Jews who find these ancient forms of worship primitive and their inclusion in prayer and the Torah challenging—since the earliest days of liturgical reform in Europe and America there has been discomfort with classical Jewish sources that deal with sacrifice. Explore interpretive methods of rescuing and reclaiming difficult texts about sacrifice and Temple. Evaluate the possibilities of meaning that such texts can hold for us.

 NOTE: This class is extended 15 min. for a small group discussion component.

The Dead Sea Scrolls: Meaning and Mystery

DR. MARK W. WEISSTUCH

6:30–8:15 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

The momentous discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran over half a century ago opened a window for understanding the tenets and beliefs of early Judaism during a period critical to their formation. Through an examination of scroll texts and their historical context, explore: Who were the authors of these manuscripts? How did they understand the Bible and why were “rewritten Bibles” revered as revelation? What were their beliefs about the nature of evil, the calendar, angels and the supernal world, the messiah, the end of time and final judgment, and the Jerusalem Temple? Are the Qumran scrolls related to early Christianity? View Judaism through the lens of the Dead Sea Scrolls and their historical context to deepen your understanding of Judaism today.

 NOTE: This class is extended 15 min. for a small group discussion component.

New Israeli Cinema

ISAAC ZABLOCKI

7:00–9:30 PM | **Oct 18, 25 Nov 1, 8, 15, 29 Dec 6, 13**

The renaissance of Israeli film on the global stage is astounding, with Israeli films achieving international acclaim in recent years. And, yet, as the industry raises its quality to Hollywood levels, and produces


Freedom  
from Debt

“Today, the average student leaves college with more than \$19,000 in student loan debt. This [is] discouraging many young people from choosing careers in fields such as teaching, social work and law enforcement—the low-paying but vital jobs that bring large benefits to our society.... The Higher Education Access Act of 2007 will... completely forgive the loans of those who enter society’s most needed professions.... Our society needs more teachers, more emergency management and law enforcement professionals, more public health doctors and nurses, more social workers, more librarians, more public interest lawyers, and more early childhood teachers.... Under our bill, we’ll produce more of them, because they—and all the groups I’ve just mentioned—will be eligible for loan forgiveness.”

—SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY (D-MA),  
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE  
ON JUNE 20, 2007.

comedies, dramas, and fantasy, the films remain very distinctly Israeli. Through screenings of these films, witness a new Israeli society filled with blossoming creativity. Join us for a series of top Israeli films from the past few years, followed by in-depth discussions.

*This course is made possible in part by a generous contribution from the Schwarzhaupt-Levite Video Fund of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.*

 **NOTE:** Students may register for the entire series in advance or pay at the door on a week-by-week basis.

## Journey of the Soul: Pre-Life, Embodiment, and Afterlife in Judaism

### DR. ANDREW HAHN

7:30–9:00 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

Do Jews believe in an afterlife? What is the Jewish view on the soul's relationship to the body? Is there a Jewish heaven and hell? What is the soul doing before it enters the body? Does the soul exist between bodies? By examining Biblical, Rabbinic, philosophical, and kabbalistic texts and practices, explore the answers the Jewish tradition offers to these questions and ask new ones. Compare Judaism's view with other religions, East and West, where relevant.

## Friends and Lovers: A Journey Towards Married Life

### DASEE BERKOWITZ AND DR. BARRY L. STERN

7:30–9:30 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

Are you getting married? Mazal tov! In planning a wedding that reflects who you are as a couple, the myriad symbols and rituals of Jewish tradition can seem baffling. This course for engaged couples will allow you to find your own path through the vast array of Jewish traditions. Explore the options that Judaism offers so that you can make choices that speak to you. Familiarize yourselves with the components of the wedding ceremony itself, including *ketubah* (marriage contract), breaking the glass, the *huppah* (wedding canopy), and other rituals. Learn about the symbolic meaning of these customs and how these symbols teach us about married life, developing mutual commitments, dealing with conflict, and building a home. Prepare for the big day and for the years that follow!


 **NOTE:** The price for this course is per couple.

## David: Saint, Villain, Lover, King

### REUBEN NAMDAR

8:00–9:30 PM | **Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 28 Dec 5, 12**

Few characters have impacted Jewish culture as much as King David, and even fewer characters are as complex, intriguing, and full of contradictions as this legendary Judean king. A robber, a lover, a musician, and a poet, David is both a saint and a villain, a messianic symbol and a power-lusting tyrant. In this class, explore the incredibly lush world of the Biblical books of *Samuel 2* and *Kings*, as well as the surprisingly fantastic rabbinic literature from the Midrash and Talmud regarding King David, and modern Jewish and Israeli references to his character. Discover not only the poetic and literary qualities of those classic Jewish texts, but also the subtle element of critique that is hidden within them.

 **Interested in this course?** Also see “Jewish Life Revealed Through Short Stories,” p. 7.



# Thursday


## DAYTIME CLASSES

### Early Morning Talmud: Rereading Gender in Talmudic Literature

DR. MOTTI ARAD

7:30–9:00 AM | **Oct 18, 25 Nov 1, 8, 15, 29 Dec 6, 13**

Focus on a problem both ancient and current: the conflict between career and family life. Discover how it played out both in legal statements made by the Rabbis of late antiquity (100–650 CE) and in stories about their life. Given the centrality of both studying Torah and having a family, how did the Rabbis reconcile the two values? Study selections from Midrash, Mishna, Tosefta, and the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds including tractates *Yevamot*, *Ketubot*, and *Kiddushin*. In these ancient pages, the Rabbis debated. Whose obligation is it to procreate? Is celibacy an option? For how long may a man leave his wife for the sake of studying? And did the Rabbis trust themselves to control their sexual drive?


 **Interested in this course?** Also see “‘Holy Land’: Talmudic Law and Lore About the Land of Israel,” p. 7.

### Jewish Questions in Contemporary Art

NOAM M. ELCOTT

*The Robert S. and Kimberly R. Kravis Course in Jewish Studies*  
2:00–3:30 PM | **Oct 18, 25 Nov 1, 8, 15, 29 Dec 6, 13**

If the world of contemporary art seems unsettling and strange—it is! It is also among the most innovative and provocative realms of our culture. Get a foothold in current art trends and discover how contemporary artists have addressed Jewish questions like sacred space, Jewish identity, Israeli politics, ritual, and memory. Focus on exhibitions and shows currently running in New York and make frequent gallery and museum visits.

 **NOTE:** This course features all new material and is appropriate for students who have taken previous courses on this topic.

### Hak'hel

“And Moses instructed them as follows: Every seventh year, the year set for remission, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose, you shall read this Teaching aloud in the presence of all Israel. Gather the people—men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities—that they may hear and so learn to revere the Lord your God and to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching.”  
—DEUTERONOMY 31:10–12

—  
“The hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.”  
—ERASMUS

## After Words:

New Perspectives on the Weekly Torah Portion

**Thursdays • beginning October 11 • 7–8 PM**

- \$10 per lecture or buy a book of 5 tickets for \$40 at the door, good for any lecture this year
- \$5 current Skirball students at the door
- free for university students with current ID

Ever since Ezra the Scribe instituted the public reading of Torah in the marketplace in the sixth century BCE, the imaginative and creative life of Jews has been informed by the weekly Torah portion (*parashat hashavua*). This exciting and unusual new lecture series will present a diverse group of intellectuals, artists, writers, and communal leaders, as well as renowned scholars and master teachers, who will give stand-alone lectures that draw on one compelling idea from each week's Torah portion, tuned to their own particular interests and areas of expertise.



[www.adultjewishlearning.org/afterwords](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org/afterwords) for a list of presenters

## cooperative learning communities

A unique approach to study and creative thought at the Skirball Center combines dialogue and small group discussion. Join communities of fellowship that will empower you to connect to the great texts and ideas of the Jewish past while engaging in an intellectual and experiential journey through Bible, Talmud, medieval commentaries, Kabbalah, Hasidic thought, modern literature, and more. Each year, these cooperative learning communities, or *batei midrash*, focus on a particular theme that is elucidated through text study and discussion and that ultimately finds expression in the creative work of its participants.



### *This year's theme is:* **Service and Sacrifice**

In a creative encounter with a variety of Jewish texts, explore the meaning of service and sacrifice. What does it mean to give and to receive? What is an appropriate gift to God? Is sacrifice a sublimation of violence or a source of violence? What makes a place sacred? What motivates one to lead and to serve? Can such motivations become distorted? Through art and writing, create contemporary commentaries on this rich and textured material.

**p. 8 | Artists' Beit Midrash**

**p. 12 | Writers' Beit Midrash: Creative Non-Fiction**



a three-year certificate program  
in Jewish studies consisting of:  
**6 semesters \* 10 weeks each**  
**180 hours total**

Iyun is a program of serious engagement with biblical (2 semesters), rabbinic (2 semesters), medieval (1 semester), and modern Jewish texts (1 semester). In it, you will ask questions such as: When, why, and by whom was this text written? How was it understood in the past, and how did it, and does it, impact Jewish life? What claim might it make on my own life as a Jew? Iyun brings together adults from a broad spectrum of Jewish backgrounds who want a coherent, directed course of study. Students should be interested in intensive text study and willing to learn from others. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required.

**Applicants should be prepared to make a three-year commitment to IYUN.**

### \* APPLICATIONS | TUITION

- To download an application or for more information visit [www.iyun.org](http://www.iyun.org)
- To receive an application by mail contact Adina Gerver at **212.507.9537** or [adina@adultjewishlearning.org](mailto:adina@adultjewishlearning.org)
- Application deadline: Rolling admissions begin immediately. Space is limited.
- Tuition: \$650 per semester.
- Limited financial aid is available. All conversations regarding financial aid are strictly confidential.

# Faculty

## CORE FACULTY



**NOAM M. ELCOTT** is a doctoral candidate in modern art history at Princeton University. He has taught and lectured across the tri-state area.



**DR. NEIL GILLMAN** is the Skirball Center's Scholar-in-Residence and Professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). A world-renowned thinker and teacher,

Neil is the author of several seminal books on Jewish theology, including *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew*.



**DR. DAVID GREENSTEIN** is Rosh Ha-Yeshivah/Rabbinic Dean of the Academy for Jewish Religion, where he teaches Rabbinics, Kabbalah, and Jewish Thought and offers rabbinic guidance. David has a doctorate in Rabbinics and Kabbalah. He has published articles on Jewish aesthetics, pluralism, and Talmud.



**DR. IRIT KOREN** received a doctorate in Gender Studies at Bar-Ilan University and an MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew University. She is the author of *Closet Within a Closet: Stories of Religious Homosexuals*. Her area of interest is the intersection of Jewish tradition, society, and gender.



**DR. DAVID KRAEMER** is Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS where he is also Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian, overseeing the greatest collection of Judaica in the Western

world. Among his many publications is his recently published *Jewish Eating and Identity Through the Ages*. He is a Senior Core Faculty Scholar at the Skirball Center.



**RABBI LEON A. MORRIS** is the Executive Director of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning. Ordained at Hebrew Union College, Leon has taught at Orthodox,

Conservative, and Reform synagogues as well as at the Drisha Institute. He has written for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Jewish Week*, and beliefnet.com, and has appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition*. He is currently a Mandel Jerusalem Fellow.



**MICHAL NACHMANY** is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Michal has taught liturgical, biblical, and modern Hebrew for more than twenty years at synagogues and other institutions throughout New York City.



**DR. REGINA STEIN** is the National Director of the Jewish Education Department at Hadassah and Director of the Hadassah Leadership Academy. She has an MA and doctorate in Jewish History from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Regina has taught for the Wexner Heritage Foundation and Bronfman Youth Program in Israel as well as JTS, Temple University, and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.



**DAVID WACHTEL** is the Research Librarian for Special Collections at the JTS library. He holds advanced degrees in Medieval History and Jewish Studies from Columbia

University. He is the author of *From This World to the Next: Jewish Approaches to Illness, Death and the Afterlife* and a contributing author to *Printing the Talmud: From Bomberg to Schottenstein*.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

**ARLENE AGUS** is an executive consultant to Jewish family foundations. She is a contributing author to *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holidays* and *What Happens After I Die?*

**DR. MOTTI ARAD**, a visiting Assistant Professor in Talmud at JTS, holds a doctorate in Talmud from JTS. His main research interest is the attitude toward non-rabbis in rabbinic literature. He is the author of the forthcoming *Desecrators of the Sabbath with Parhessia*.

**DASEE BERKOWITZ** is an educational consultant and the founder of JLife Consulting, which works with couples and families in preparation for their life cycle events. Dasee has an MA in Jewish Education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**YORAM BITTON** has a BA in Talmud and Jewish History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has served as a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan and taught at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York and at the Hebrew University.

**DR. TSVI BLANCHARD**, director of organizational development at CLAL, was ordained at the Yeshiva Gedola of St. Louis and holds doctorates in Psychology and Philosophy. He is a practicing clinical psychologist. His recent publications include *How to Think About Being Jewish in the Twenty-First Century*, and he is the co-author of *Embracing Life & Facing Death: A Jewish Guide to Palliative Care*.

**DR. JASMIN BEY COWIN**, a trained German harpist, received her MA and doctorate in Education from Columbia University. She teaches at Hunter College, the New York Public Library, and the Opera Company of Brooklyn.

**RABBI MARLA J. FELDMAN**, a Reform rabbi and lawyer, is the Director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. She has published numerous social justice articles and she lectures throughout the country.

**DANNY FINGEROTH** was the longtime Group Editor of Marvel Comics' Spider-Man line and has



written many comics featuring Spider-Man and other characters. He is the author of *Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero*. Danny teaches comics writing and analysis at The New School, New York University, and the Media Bistro.

**DR. ARNOLD FRANKLIN** is an assistant professor in the department of Classical and Oriental Studies at Hunter College, where he teaches courses on medieval Hebrew literature and Jewish thought. Arnold holds a doctorate in Jewish History from Princeton University.

**SHELLY R. FREDMAN** teaches writing at Barnard College. She received an MFA from Washington University and has taught at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Her work has appeared in *Best Jewish Writing 2002*, *First Harvest*, the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, *Lilith*, and a number of anthologies and literary magazines.

**DR. FREEMA GOTTLIEB**, author of *The Lamp of God: A Jewish Book of Light*, *Jewish Folk Art*, and *Mystical Stonescapes of Prague Jewish Town and Village Graveyards*, is a freelance writer and teacher living in New York.

**DR. ALFRED GOTTSCHALK** is the Chancellor Emeritus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. He holds a doctorate in Philosophy and the History of Religion. His books include *To Learn and to Teach*.

**DR. ANDREW HAHN** holds a doctorate in Jewish Thought from JTS and was ordained at Hebrew Union College. He has taught adult Jewish education around the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Academy for Jewish Religion and a resident scholar at CLAL.

**MARK H. HEUTLINGER** has been the administrator of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York for nearly two decades. Prior to that, he was the Associate Director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. He has lectured widely on the history and architecture of Temple Emanu-El.

**TOBI KAHN** is an internationally acclaimed painter and sculptor whose work has been shown in over 40 solo exhibitions and over 60 museum and group shows. He is the co-founder of Avoda Arts and has taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York since 1985.

**LISA KOGEN** is a doctoral candidate in Jewish History at JTS and has lectured extensively in both formal and informal educational venues. She is the National Education Director at the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

**MARCIE LENK** is the Academic Director of Hebrew College's Me'ah Program in the New York region. The Schimberg Fellow at Harvard University, she is a doctoral candidate in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism. Marcie has taught at the Drisha Institute, Pardes Institute, and Midreshet Lindenbaum, as well as in a variety of Christian seminaries in Jerusalem.

**REUBEN NAMDAR** was born and raised in Jerusalem. He completed his BA and MA at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His book *Havin*, a collection of short stories, was published in 2000

and won the Ministry of Culture's award for Best First Publication and the Jerusalem Fiction award.

**DR. ROBERT POLLACK** has been a professor of biological sciences at Columbia University since 1978, and was dean of Columbia College from 1982–1989. He is the Director of the Center for the Study of Science and religion at Columbia University and the author of *The Faith of Biology and the Biology of Faith: Meaning, Order and Free Will in Modern Medical Science*, among other works.

**DR. DAVID M. POSNER**, senior rabbi at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York, has been with the synagogue for over three decades, since his graduation from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Posner's areas of expertise include Semitic languages and music. He earned his doctorate in music from Teachers' College, Columbia University.

**ANNE ROIPHE** is the author of thirteen books of fiction and non-fiction, including *Lovingkindness* and *1185 Park Ave*. She is a journalist and a contributing editor to the *Jerusalem Report*.

**NIGEL SAVAGE** is the founder and director of Hazon, whose mission is to create a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community as a step towards a healthier and more sustainable world for all.

**DR. DIANE M. SHARON** is a member of the faculty in Bible at the Academy for Jewish Religion. She has taught at JTS, Fordham University, General Theological Seminary (Episcopal), and other institutions of higher learning. Her area of expertise is the Hebrew Bible in its context in the ancient Near East, comparative religion, and women's studies.

**DR. BARRY L. STERN** is Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He maintains a private psychotherapy and psychoanalytic practice in midtown Manhattan, and has a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Missouri.

**RABBI JAN UHRBACH** is the rabbi of the East 55th Street Conservative Synagogue and the Conservative Synagogue of the Hamptons in a newly formed congregational affiliation. She is an adjunct Lecturer of Professional and Pastoral Skills at JTS Rabbinical School. Jan received her ordination from JTS, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow.

**DR. MARK W. WEISSTUCH** received his doctorate in Theater History from the City University of New York. He has taught seminars on general Jewish history, the history of the Jews in Poland and Eastern Europe, and various subjects related to the Holocaust. Mark is Administrative Vice President of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.

**ISAAC ZABLOCKI** is the Director of Film Programs at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. He served in the Israel Defense Forces as an educational filmmaker and, in addition to completing seven feature film scripts, has directed a feature film, *Reality Lost*, about a world in which fictional film no longer exists.

# Support the Skirball Center

Because ideas can transform us.

Because Jewish texts belong to each and every one of us.

Because we need not take our texts literally in order to take them seriously.

## We need your support.

Temple Emanu-El provides the in-kind contribution of our facilities and some additional support. However, our primary funding comes from tuition and a designated endowment that cannot cover the cost of our exceptional, unique, and expanding programs.

Join those who have acknowledged our role as an intellectual home to a wide spectrum of curious and searching Jews from every background and perspective, those who are enabling us to fulfill our vital mission.

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Thomas Epstein\*  
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The Women's Auxiliary of  
Temple Emanu-El  
*in honor of Dr. Ronald B. Sobel*

\* OF BLESSED MEMORY

## ANNUAL SUPPORT

*Contributions made between  
August 1, 2006 and July 31, 2007*

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The Skirball Foundation

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*with the support and encouragement  
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*We also express our gratitude to the  
many other donors who support our work by  
including a contribution with their tuition.*



YOU MAY REGISTER BY

Mail

One East 65th Street  
New York, NY 10065

Phone

212.507.9580

Fax

212.570.0826

Website

adultjewishlearning.org

PAYMENT METHOD

Please check off payment method below.

☐ Check  
Made payable to  
**Skirball Center**  
  
Please send to:  
Skirball Center  
One East 65th Street  
New York, NY 10065

Credit Cards:  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ VISA  
☐ American Express

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE

All registrants, please fill out the information below:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

The Skirball Center reserves the right to cancel courses for insufficient enrollment.

See page 3 for scholarship information.

MASTERS GROUP DESIGN, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Discounts (Tuition reductions may not be combined.)  
Please indicate which discount, if any, applies.

- ☐ An individual registering for more than one course: 20% off each additional course
- ☐ Members of Temple Emanu-El: 25% off each course
- ☐ Senior citizens (age 65 and older): 10% off each course
- ☐ Age 30 and below: 10% off each course

Registration Indicate course selection(s) below:

Eight-Week Courses (\$215 through Sept. 27; \$250 starting Sept. 28)	Tuition	Discount Applied	Final Cost
American Jewish History	\$		
Bad Boys and Fast Women: Judges	\$		
Bible & Midrash Through a Psychoanalytic Lens	\$		
David: Saint, Villain, Lover, King	\$		
Dead Sea Scrolls	\$		
Early Morning Talmud	\$		
Flowering of Jewish Culture in Islamic World	\$		
Food For Thought	\$		
Friends and Lovers (per couple)	\$		
From Groucho to Gershwin: Culture	\$		
Heschel's The Sabbath	\$		
Holy Land: Talmudic Law and Lore	\$		
Jewish Life Revealed Through Short Stories	\$		
Jewish Questions in Contemporary Art	\$		
Journey of the Soul	\$		
Making Sense of Sacrifice	\$		
Medicine, Ethics, and Religion	\$		
A Psalm for All Seasons	\$		
Rediscovering the Weekly Torah Portion	\$		
Theologies of Revelation	\$		
What Makes Jewish Ethics Jewish?	\$		
Women in the Bible	\$		
Hebrew Language Courses			
Advanced Hebrew Literature (\$135 through Sept. 27; \$165 starting Sept. 28)	\$		
Israeli Politics and Culture (\$215/\$250)	\$		
Hebrew Level 1 (\$215/\$250)	\$		
Year-Long Hebrew Grammar (\$215 for year)	\$		
Beit Midrash (\$245 through Sept. 27; \$265 starting Sept. 28)			
Artists' Beit Midrash	\$		
Writers' Beit Midrash	\$		
New Israeli Cinema			
8-Weeks: \$100/semester or \$15 each at door	\$		
Openings (\$200 for the year)			
Openings: Relevance of Judaism	\$		
Openings: Jews and Politics	\$		
Sunday Seminars (\$50 each)			
Ehad HaAm	\$		
Hannah and Samuel	\$		
Jewish Musicians	\$		
Jews, Comics, and Superheroes	\$		
Shedding Light on Hanukah: Origins	\$		
Science and Religion: Why Not Both?	\$		
Temple Emanu-El	\$		
Four Theological Sundays (\$50 each; all four for \$150)			
Revelation (fall semester)	\$		
God (fall semester)	\$		
Suffering (winter semester)	\$		
The Afterlife (winter semester)	\$		

How did you hear about us?

Total number of courses

Total cost of courses \$  
Annual registration fee per academic year \$20.00  
I have enclosed a contribution towards the scholarship fund in the amount of \$  
Total amount enclosed \$



*“...one of the city’s premier venues  
for intellectual, provocative events.”*

*—The Jewish Week*

**Join us for our Fall semester**  
beginning on Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Visit **[www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org)**  
for additional information.

SKIRBALL



The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El

**One East 65th Street • New York, NY 10065**