

TEMPLE SHIR TIKVAH
ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THE AMBROSE SCHOOL



WINTER/SPRING 2019

ADULT LEARNING CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Winter/Spring 2019

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE; NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

JANUARY

- January 6: Spirit Links
January 13: EJP/ Three Pathways Into Leviticus and Numbers
January 27: The Roman Empire's Influence on Jews and Judaism

FEBRUARY

- February 3: The Roman Empire and Judaism
February 10: EJP/ Three Pathways Into Leviticus and Numbers

MARCH

- March 3: The Roman Empire and Judaism
March 10: Three Pathways into Leviticus and Numbers
March 17: Introduction to Prayers in the Temple Services
March 24: Introduction to Prayers
March 31: EJP/ Reform Judaism

APRIL

- April 7: Spirit Links
April 28: EJP/ Reform Judaism

MAY

- May 5: Annual Meeting - No class

All classes will be held at the Ambrose School (27 High Street, Winchester) on Sunday mornings, and unless otherwise noted, run from 9:45 to 11:15 AM.

All Adult Learning classes are free and do not require registration. Participants are invited to attend any or all classes in a given course.

Spirit Links

Dr. Michelle Bograd, Cantor Beth Levin, Rabbi Rim Meirowitz

January 6, April 7

Using songs, silence, intimate text study, and discussion, Spirit Links guides participants to connect spiritual concerns to everyday aspects of life. Spirit Links classes have dealt with the nature of holiness, what it means to be on a journey, the complexities of money, and the concept of "enoughness."

Three Pathways into Leviticus and Numbers

Rabbi Sara Meirowitz

January 13, February 10, March 10

This three-session course will explore some of the key narratives and themes in the biblical books of Leviticus and Numbers. Topics to be discussed may include the Tabernacle's dangerous holiness, the complex family dynamics among Moses and his siblings, and the tragedy of the Spies. We will discuss two key questions: how do we understand the interplay of legal and narrative texts, and how do we make modern-day meaning from the body of law? This class is open to all participants, whether familiar with Torah texts or encountering them for the first time.

The Roman Empire's Influence on Jews and Judaism

Adam Marshak

January 27, February 3, March 3

This course will examine the complicated, often tense, but always dynamic relationship between Jews and Rome as well as the role that the Roman Empire played in the development of Judaism as a religion. Using three case studies, we will arrive at a more nuanced picture of this incredibly complicated but formative period in Jewish history. In what ways was Judaism—itsself a Greek word (Iudaismos)—a product, at least in part, of the larger Greco-Roman world?

Jews and Judaea in a Hellenistic World. In this class, we'll look at the early generations of the Hasmonean (Maccabees) family to understand how the influence of the Greco-Roman world shaped Jewish identity, helping transform Judaea's sacred practice into a modern religion. When Alexander the Great and his Macedonian army

conquered the Persian Empire, they began the process of Hellenization. This process fundamentally altered the culture of millions of people in a region that stretched from the Mediterranean to Afghanistan. Judaea was not immune from this dynamic process and became fully immersed in the Hellenistic world.

The Metamorphosis of Jerusalem, Judaea, and Herod the Great. In the midst of his rebellion against the Seleucids, Judah Maccabee sent several embassies to cities around the Mediterranean world requesting aid, including Rome. What began as a distant alliance became unequal domination by Rome. At the same time, the Roman empire was partly responsible for creating the framework and supporting the development of perhaps the most vibrant period in ancient Jewish history. How did Judaea transform from a regional backwater into a modern and dynamic pilgrimage site? How did the Roman system enable the creation of a global Jewish network centered on Jerusalem and its high priesthood?

Roman Law and the Creation of the Rabbinic Corpus. Finally, we'll look at how Roman legal tradition impacted the rabbinic project, especially the creation of the Mishnah and the Talmud. After the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE, Judaism managed to survive and evolve, mainly through the efforts of the rabbis. But the rabbis did not exist in a vacuum. We'll examine how Roman concepts of law and legal codes influenced the rabbis, and how the rabbis both borrowed from Roman legal tradition and rejected Roman law, fashioning new solutions for similar problems.

Exploring Jewish Parenting

Rabbi Cari Bricklin-Small

10:00 to 11:15

January 13, February 10, March 31, April 28

Join Rabbi Cari and EJL parents in a series of workshops about Jewish parenting and how to bring Judaism into the lives of families. These monthly workshops are open to parents of children of all ages, as well as those who serve in the role of parents. Each month will focus on a different topic.

Introduction to Prayers in the Temple Services

Rabbi Cari

March 17, March 24

Have you ever wondered why we say certain prayers at certain times? What they mean and how they fit into temple services? In the first class of this course, we will explore the structure of the services and how it changes in response to the calendar. The second class will explore the hidden connections between the prayer book and the Torah, helping us to see and hear the prayers as part of a conversation happening across the millennia.

Reform Judaism

Rabbi Neal Gold

March 31, April 28

This two-session course will focus on how Reform Judaism began and how it has evolved from the eighteenth century to the present.

The Origins of Reform Judaism: Judaism Confronts Modernity. The roots of Reform Judaism are found in the rapidly changing world of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. How did Jewish leaders confront the challenges of science, nationalism, technology, and end of the ghetto? How did these changes challenge traditional Jewish ideas of the messiah, the Jewish people, and life after death?

The Evolution of Reform Judaism: Judaism Confronts the Post-Modern World. The upheavals of the 20th century changed everything—including the role of religion and identity. How did Reform Judaism adapt to life in America, the meaning of Zionism, and the cultural and technological upheavals of the past half century?

About the Instructors

Michele Bograd, PhD, is a psychologist, marital and family therapist who connects to Judaism through its questions rather than its answers. Part of an interfaith couple, her uneasy relationship with traditional Judaism couples with her search for opening the heart, connecting to spiritual questions, and deepening connection to others with similar longings and contradictions. She joined Beth and Rim years back when her two children were young and together they created the structure and intention of Spirit Links.

Rabbi Neal Gold teaches and writes about Jewish texts, Israel, and the intersections between Jewish spiritual life and the contemporary world. He is the Jewish Chaplain and Hillel Director at Babson College and teaches at Hebrew College. For over 18 years, Rabbi Neal served congregations in New Jersey and Massachusetts. His writing and blogs can be found at www.nealgold.net.

Adam Kolman Marshak, PhD, teaches history at Gann Academy. He received his BA from Stanford and his PhD in history from Yale, where he was a Mellon Fellow and Distinguished Teaching award winner. He has published articles on the history of Roman Judaea and the political world of Herod the Great. Adam lives in Newton with his wife Melissa and their daughters Yaira, Ophira, and Yardana.

Rabbi Rim Meirowitz was ordained as a Conservative rabbi in 1975. He became the founding headmaster of the Rashi school in 1985, and he joined the Reform movement at that time. In 1997, Rabbi Rim became the third rabbi of Temple Shir Tikvah. He helped build our building in 2000 and has been blessed by every moment he has had with the Shir Tikvah community.

Rabbi Sara Meirowitz is assistant chair of Jewish Studies at Gann Academy. Teaching adult learning classes at Shir Tikvah is a highlight of her year!

Temple 
Shir Tikvah

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