Adult Learning Calendar for Winter–Spring 2020

All classes are free: no registration required. Classes are held on Sunday mornings at the Ambrose School, 27 High Street in Winchester. Classes begin at 9:45 am unless otherwise noted. Feel free to stop by early to schmooze and grab a bagel and coffee.

JANUARY 5
Makom Shalom Meditation Session
What a great way to begin 2020! Makom Shalom—a peaceful place—is TST’s meditation collaborative. We are thrilled to bring a mindfulness session to the Ambrose School, led by Peter Feinmann.

JANUARY 12
People of the Books: A Conversation about (mostly) 20th Century Jewish Fiction (Part 1) with Kathryn Bloom
In this three-session lecture/discussion course, we will consider a wide range of fiction by and about Jews, with emphasis on American middlebrow literature of the mid-20th century, contemporary Israeli fiction, and international Jewish literature. In the first lecture, we’ll identify some of the many issues modern and post-modern Jewish authors write about.

JANUARY 26
People of the Books: A Conversation about (mostly) 20th Century Jewish Fiction (Part 2) with Kathryn Bloom
As we continue to explore 20th Century Jewish Literature, we’ll expand our universe to explore Jewish fiction from outside the United States, including Europe, South Africa, and South America—and even some “interplanetary” Jewish science fiction.

FEBRUARY 2
People of the Books: A Conversation about (mostly) 20th Century Jewish Fiction (Part 3) with Kathryn Bloom
The third session will focus on the issues that concern notable Israeli authors, such as S.Y. Agnon, Amos Oz, and Etgar Keret.

FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 1, MARCH 8
Entering the Orchard: A Taste of Jewish Mysticism (1) with Rabbi Sara Meirowitz
From Ezekiel’s fantastical Divine chariot to the medieval Kabbalists’ many aspects of God, Judaism has a rich and provocative mystical tradition. This class will explore a few of the foundational texts and themes in Jewish mysticism, surveying key texts from the Bible, Talmud, Zohar, and modern texts.

MARCH 15
Influential Modern Jewish Thinkers (Part 1) with Rabbi David Starr
Martin Buber: originally from the heartland of Jewish Poland, Buber revolutionized thought in ethics, relationships, and Zionism, most famously in the book I and Thou.

MARCH 22
Influential Modern Jewish Thinkers (Part 2) with Rabbi David Starr
Mordecai Kaplan: originally born in the Lithuanian Pale, he grew up and was educated in the U.S. He wrote extensively about the Jewish people as a civilization who created Judaism, not the other way around. For him, Jewish culture, religion, and even concepts of God were organic, evolving in response to existing conditions. He founded the Reconstructionist movement and was a highly controversial figure.

(Starting time: 10:00 am)

MARCH 29
Immigration to the U.S.: History, Jewish Immigration, and Current Issues (Part 1) with Jeff Thielman
Focusing on the period of mass Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe, we’ll explore the ways the newcomers created a vibrant Jewish subculture and defined their identities as Americans.

APRIL 5
Spirit Links with Michelle Bograd, Beth Levin, Rabbi Rim Meirowitz
Using songs, silence, intimate text study, and discussion, spiritual concerns are linked to everyday aspects of life.

APRIL 26
Immigration to the U.S.: History, Jewish Immigration, and Current Issues (Part 2) with Jeff Thielman
We will explore shifting US attitudes and policy toward immigrants and refugees, with a focus on the Obama and Trump administrations; how refugee families are weathering the current climate.