

TEMPLE SHIR TIKVAH
ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THE AMBROSE SCHOOL



FALL 2018

ADULT LEARNING CALENDAR AT A GLANCE FALL 2018

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE; NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SEPTEMBER

September 16: [First Day of Religious School \(no class\)](#)
September 23: [Exploring Jewish Parenting \(EJP\)](#); [Nigunim](#)
September 30: [Spirit Links](#)

OCTOBER

October 14: [Jews in Photography](#)
October 21: [EJP](#); [Nigunim](#)
October 28: [Engaging with the African-American Experience](#)

NOVEMBER

November 4: [Spirit Links](#)
November 11: [African-American Experience](#)
November 18: [EJP](#); [African-American Experience](#)

DECEMBER

December 2: [Death and Dying in Judaism](#)
December 9: [EJP](#); [Death and Dying in Judaism](#)
December 16: [Death and Dying in Judaism](#)

Temple
Shir Tikvah 
34 Vine Street
Winchester, MA, 01890

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

Exploring Jewish Parenting

Rabbi Cari Bricklin-Small

10 to 11:15 AM

September 23, October 21, November 18, December 9

Join Rabbi Cari and E.J.L. 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. This year Rabbi Cari will use the Parenting Through a Jewish Lens curriculum to “discuss topics that matter . . . ; explore Jewish values that can enrich [one’s] family; reflect on the joys and challenges of raising kids today; and find support, encouragement and connection.”

Singing Our History: Nigunim

Zach Mayer

September 23, October 21

Join Zach Mayer for two intimate and spiritual classes on the Jewish tradition of nigunim, melodies without words. Nigunim are said to bring about higher states of presence, mindfulness, embodiment, and even extreme joy. The first class will focus on the history of nigunim and include group singing. The second will also include group singing, along with reflection and discussion.

No prior musical experience is necessary.

The Beginnings of the Nigun. We will explore some of the oldest wordless melodies of the Hasidic tradition. Great musical rabbis composed these masterworks, and Hasidim sang them over and over again to reach higher levels of consciousness and devotion. We will begin with nigunim from the eighteenth century, written by greats like the Alter Rebbe and Rabbi Karlin. As we sing our way forward in chronological order, we will observe how the nigun has developed over time.

Present-Day Nigunim. We will continue singing our history, traveling through the Jewish chronology of wordless melodies. We will sing nigunim written by more recent composers, including Reb Shlomo Carlebach, Joey Weisenberg, and Zach himself. We will also discuss how we can incorporate the powerful stillness of the nigun into our everyday lives.

Spirit Links

Michelle Bograd, Ph.D., Cantor Beth Levin, Rabbi Rim Meiorowitz

September 30, November 4

In these sessions, we link spiritual concerns to everyday aspects of our lives through songs, silence, intimate text study, and discussion. Previous 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.”

The Mosaic Lens: Jews in Photography

Gordon Bernstein

10 to 11:15 AM

October 14

A disproportionate number of major twentieth-century American photographers are Jewish. Given that Judaism has no extraordinary tradition in the plastic arts, why is this so? In this one-day course, we will look at some of the central contributors to American photography, their influences, subjects, techniques, effects, and themes. By examining the work of men and women committed to a medium that is heretical (according to the second commandment), we will see how photography became a sharp instrument of tikkun-olam in our then-young democracy. We will apply an ancient technique of scriptural exegesis, *pardes*, to famous and obscure images that still have the power to change the viewer.

Engaging with the African-American Experience

Michelle Chalmers, Lavette Coney, Rabbi Michael Rothbaum

October 28, November 11, November 18

In this series of three classes, we will explore the black experience in America and how we can work towards racial justice.

What is Race, and Why Does It Matter? Do you wonder why many people in the Boston area, as well as in other cities, live in separate racial enclaves? Why, over 150 years after the end of slavery, there is a persistent wealth gap between black and white people? Why black men are incarcerated or killed by police officers in numbers far beyond their proportions in the general population? What can we do to change this situation? In this class, Michelle Chalmers will discuss the historical and contemporary role of race in our society.

One African-American Person's Experience. In this class, Lavette Coney will present a rich monologue about the experience of living as a Roxbury-born woman of African

descent. Afterwards, we will process and reflect on what we have heard in small groups. The class will also include time for questions.

Ferguson/Fargess: Racism, Jewishness, and the Movement for Black Lives.

In 1902, in a stuffy room on the Lower East Side, a group of Jews testified about abuses suffered at the hands of New York City police officers in front of a local “Indignation Committee.” Today, many Americans are recognizing abuses suffered by African Americans at the hands of our nation’s criminal justice system. Are these experiences similar? Different? What are the implications for the role of white Jews in the struggle for racial justice?

Exploring Dying, Death and Life after Death

Rabbi Rim Meiorowitz

December 2, December 9, December 16

Death comes to all of us. We experience the dying and death of people whom we love. We shall, someday, experience our own dying and death. And those whom we love will live on after us. In this course we’ll see how our tradition might inform our experiences of being with the dying, of living on with memory, and of preparing for our own passing. We shall also explore, using some newly translated Hassidic and mystical texts, Jewish ideas of life after death and the reuse (or reincarnation) of souls.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

Gordon Bernstein is a working photographer, casual mystic, animator, and Temple Shir Tikvah member.

Michele Bograd, Ph.D. is a psychologist and 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 unites 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.

Michelle Chalmers, MSW received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from Wheelock College

in Boston and San Diego State University. Michelle is the author of the children’s books *The Skin on My Chin* and *The Story of METCO*. She does author visits for children, as well as parent and teacher training on creating an anti-biased classroom and having difficult conversations with young children.

Lavette Coney is an educator, writer, and lecturer. As a person of African descent, she has pursued her work around race and social justice in workshops and presentations in this country and in Japan, as well as in her published writings. She believes that we cannot be fully human unless we grapple with, understand, and take action on issues of social justice and equity.

Zach Mayer is a musician, singer, and the musical director of Kahal Braira, a humanistic Jewish congregation in Cambridge. He leads Jewish spiritual gatherings across the country and in Canada, and has performed with John Zorn, Congolese rapper Baloji, Bobby McFerrin, Questlove, Dave Koz, and many others. Originally from New York, Zach has performed at the Village Vanguard, the Blue Note, the Highline Ballroom, and venues around the world including Poland and Italy. In addition to singing, he plays baritone and soprano saxophones, piano, Zimbabwean mbira, tin whistle, and harmonica.

Rabbi Rim Meiorowitz 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 Michael Rothbaum serves as a rabbi at Congregation Beth Elohim in Acton. He has worked in religious schools and at camp settings, with B’nai Mitzvah and youth groups, as well as with faith-based social justice groups, including Bend the Arc and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ). He traveled to Ghana as part of an American Jewish World Service rabbinic delegation and has appeared in several radio and TV broadcasts. Rabbi Michael lives with his husband, Yiddish singer Antony Russell.

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.