

SCHOLARSTREAM

AN INITIATIVE OF THE RA, USCJ, JTS, AND ZIEGLER

Thanks to the generous support of the Sabina and Walter Dorn Education Endowment Fund, Beth Israel Congregation is proud to co-sponsor this adult learning series so that our members can access any of the following programs for free! You will need to **register for each session** you would like to attend at the designated link below. When you do so, you will be asked to enter **Beth Israel's registration code** (also below) so that you will not be charged. Once you register, you will receive the relevant Zoom link the day before the event. You will also receive a recording of that session once it becomes available (in case you cannot attend).

JTS SERIES:

Hidden Histories and Untold Stories

Tuesdays at 8 PM, Nov 10 & 17, Dec. 1 & 8

Join JTS scholars as they uncover the hidden context around biblical figures and important eras in Jewish history.

Register by clicking here: [JTS Series Registration](#)

Enter Registration Code (case sensitive): OwingsFall20

You will see places to enter payment information but should be able to leave those blank once the Registration Code is entered.

- 11/10: **Dr. David Fishman, "The Tevye Syndrome: How Religious Were East European Jews?"** Jews in Eastern Europe in the period before the Holocaust are often imagined as having been traditionally observant—bearded pious men, and women with their heads covered. In this class we will explore Eastern European stories of modern, secular trends in Jewish life, and why they have been forgotten in popular memory.
- 11/17: **Dr. Alan Cooper, "Whatever Happened to Moses's Family?"** Why does the Bible seem uninterested in Moses's line of descent? There are a few marginal references to his descendants among the Levites, and even a priestly line traceable to his son Gershom, but no one nowadays claims descent from him, in contrast to his brother Aaron, forebear of the priestly family until today. In this class we will discuss both traditional and critical answers to the question, focusing on the peculiar stories about Moses and his family in the book of Exodus.
- 12/1: **Dr. Sarah Wolf, "Where did the Beit Midrash Come From?"** The beit midrash is more than just a physical space. It is a culture of competition and hierarchy, and a claim that group study is perhaps the apex of Jewish religious practice. These elements have defined Jewish learning for better and for worse over the last 1500 years—but the early Rabbis were unfamiliar with the beit midrash. In this class we will explore the emergence of the beit midrash amidst specific cross-cultural currents, and how it came to have an enduring impact on Judaism.
- 12/8: **Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, "The Breakable Queen Jezebel: The Making and Breaking of the Bible's Greatest Villain."** Jezebel is a woman with a reputation, yet her biblical story does not

support the reputation she has earned. In this class we will examine the threat posed by—and the power wielded by—Queen Jezebel; how her story reflects biblical anxieties towards women; and why Jezebel has intrigued and terrified readers for generations.

ZIEGLER SERIES:

Equity, Forgiveness and Intersectionality

Wednesdays at 10 PM ET (7 PM PT), Nov. 11 & 18, Dec. 2 & 9

Join Ziegler faculty as they explore issues related to race, gender equality, intersectionality, and building a democracy of the future.

Register by clicking here: [Ziegler Registration Link](#)

Enter Registration Code (case sensitive): OwingsFall20

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- **11/11: Rabbi Cheryl Peretz, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling: A View from the Rabbinic Tradition.”** Most people think ours is the first generation to demand gender equity and balance. In this session, we will examine stories from the Talmud and Midrash to uncover and discover the centuries old Jewish march towards gender equality and justice.
- **11/18: Rabbi Dr. Elliot Dorff, “Communal Forgiveness.”** To what extent does guilt and/or responsibility transfer from one generation to another for acts in which one group harmed another? If either guilt or responsibility does transfer, how can the later generation absolve itself of it, if possible, or at least reconcile with the harmed party? Examples include what the Catholic Church did and did not do during the Shoah vis-a-vis Jews and Americans' past actions against Blacks and Native Americans.
- **12/2: Rabbi Dr. Gail Labovitz, “What the Exodus Has to Teach Us About Intersectionality.”** According to the Torah, and subsequent rabbinic exegesis, a much maligned group of people left an oppressive society during the Exodus - together with the Israelites. Who were they, and why did they choose to throw in their lot with the Israelites? What do they have to teach us about how identities and oppressions overlap and intersect and/or how socially disadvantaged groups may be pitted against each other, and how might they help us consider our obligations to others who are facing discrimination and oppression in our society?
- **12/9: Rabbi Dr. Aryeh Cohen, “Now What?”** In this class we will take a look at this historic moment and ask, in the fierce urgency of now, how do we build a multiracial democracy? How do we repair four centuries of racist exploitation of black people? How do we mitigate a xenophobic immigration policy? How do we not continue to over police and underprotect those who have suffered the most from white supremacy, and white racism? In other words, how do we build a more perfect union, a *mamlekheth kohanim vegoy kadosh*?