

# SCHOLARSTREAM

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

## WINTER 2021

COMMITTEE on JEWISH LAW & STANDARDS –  
Tuesdays, January 26, February 2, 9 and 16 (8:00 pm EST)

ZIEGLER FACULTY  
Wednesdays, January 27, February 3, 10 and 17 (10:00 pm EST)

Attend live or receive a recording of the classes (listed below).

Thanks to the generous support of the Sabina and Walter Dorn Education Endowment Fund, Beth Israel Congregation is proud to co-sponsor the second series of ScholarStream classes hosted by faculty throughout the Conservative Movement.

### REGISTRATION INFO:

Register for the Tuesday night series: [CJLS Registration Link](#); use Registration code OwingsJan21

Register for the Wednesday night series: [Ziegler Registration Link](#); use Registration code OwingsJan21

When you enter the discount code, click “Apply” and then the price of \$25 will change to \$0; then click the checkbox once the fee has become “\$0.” You can click the boxes next to the dates to register for all four sessions in each series, or the individual sessions which interest you.

Register by 11:00 the morning of each class to receive the link to the class, and the recording of the class the following day.

### ***Tuesday Night Series:***

Join members of the CJLS (Committee on Jewish Law and Standards) as they take us through four teshuvot (responsa) that have recently been passed by the law committee.

### ***“How We Navigate Ethical Dilemmas and Reshape Rituals To Draw Us Closer to God”***

- **January 26 - Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin and Rabbi Avram Israel Reisner on Sustainability**  
Judaism has constructed two interrelated ethical rubrics to living rightly on this earth. Tikkun Olam is the call for us to be in right relationship with each other. Yishuvo shel Olam is the call for us to be in right relationship with the earth. The former is well-known. The latter is not. In our session, we will explore the nature of Yishuvo shel Olam and how it serves to guide our responses to the sacred urgency of sustainability.

- **February 2 - Rabbi Micah Peltz on Vaccination**  
How do we decide who gets the vaccine first? Do we, as individuals, each have an obligation to wait our turn, or are there circumstances where we could jump the line? How far should rich countries go to share the vaccine with poorer countries? Join us as we explore Jewish sources that help us consider the ethical questions that guide the fair distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- **February 9 - Rabbi Pamela Barmash on Birkat Hamazon**  
Birkat Hamazon is essential to our spiritual lives as Jews, awakening us to the bounty we enjoy. Traditionally, it is recited only for meals with bread. Nowadays, what we eat is changing: many people are avoiding gluten, and bread is no longer the mainstay of meals as our diets become more multicultural. Join us as we explore the spiritual depths of Birkat Hamazon and see how the practice of Birkat Hamazon should change in light of contemporary dietary patterns.
- **February 16 - Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky on the Abbreviated Amidah**  
Excellent Jewish prayer is both public worship and private meditation. Our liturgical choices and rules about prayer help keep each element in its proper balance. When it comes to the Amidah, many Conservative communities choose to omit full silent recitations along with full repetitions, instead opting for the briefer *Hoikhe Kedushah* – a well-attested practice combining loud with silent prayer. What are the optimal ways – in terms of Halakhah and spiritual richness – to employ this method?

### ***Wednesday Night Series***

#### ***“The Stories We Tell: Revealing Ourselves in Ancient Narratives”***

- **January 27 - Rabbi Ilana Grinblatt, What Can We Learn from a Turbulent Time: Torah to Keep us Afloat**  
This session will explore biblical and rabbinic narratives that offer spiritual lessons to sustain us during this pandemic.
- **February 3 - Dr. Ron Wolfson, The Seven Questions You’re Asked in Heaven**
- **February 10 - Rabbi Dr. Bradley Artson, Acquiring Torah: The Story of Rabbi Akiva**  
The fascinating story of a rise from illiterate poverty to pre-eminence in learning and wealth. Rabbi Akiva seems to have it all!
- **February 17 - Rabbi Patricia Fenton, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? A Case of Mistaken Identity**