

AT CSI

Virtual Adult Study Programs



2020/21

5781



Dear CSI Families,

As we all know, this has been an unusual and trying year for all of us. Yet the Covid pandemic has also provided some surprising “silver linings”. One of those is our ability to use our computers or devices for remote learning. We can now join classes and participate in programs from the comfort of our own homes. This opens up a world of possibilities!

Of course, seeing each other in person would definitely be preferable, especially in our new Adult Study room which was completed this summer. When we do return, having a space that can easily accommodate 30 or more adults and is up to date with current technology, will be a great boon to our classes.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to look through this booklet and find the classes, programs and groups that are of interest to you. Some classes are new, while others are “old favorites”. I have no doubt that there is something here for everybody!

If you have trouble registering, or are not yet able to navigate Zoom (where the classes and programs will take place), please let us know and we will be happy to walk you through the process and make sure you are comfortable.

Rabbi Steven C. Kane

rabbi@csibraircliff.org

CLASSES:

MONDAY, 11:30 AM

WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Jan Uhrbach

We begin our 18th year of study as we add our own voices and life experiences to those who have come before us in lively discussion about our relationships with each other and with God. New participants are always welcome!

Dates: 10/26, 11/9, 11/23, 12/7, 12/14, 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 3/8, 3/15, 4/12, 4/26

Class fee is \$350 for CSI members; \$550 for non-members.

Registration required. Once your registration is complete, you will receive the zoom link for the class. Please register [HERE](#)

MONDAY, 7:30 PM

**FIVE THINGS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO
KNOW ... ABOUT STRANGE AND UNUSUAL
JEWISH CUSTOMS With Rabbi Kane**

Judaism is viewed by most of us as a rational and non-superstitious religion, which is generally accurate. However, throughout the ages, Judaism has developed its share of unusual beliefs and customs. This class will explore five of them, some normative and others not so normative but nevertheless still a part of Jewish beliefs and practices. While this is a five-part series, each class is open whether you have been at previous ones or not.

November 16 Jewish Magic

We will look at the history of magic in Judaism, which is found in the Bible, Talmud and later Jewish literature, including "how to" magic manuals. Did you know that "abracadabra" has a Jewish source?

December 14 Angels, Demons and Dybbuks

Do Jews believe in spiritual beings that we cannot generally see? What is a dybbuk and how does it differ from a demon? Is there such a thing as a Jewish exorcism? Bonus: All who attend this class will be given ways to protect against a demon attack!

January 11 Jewish Weddings

Have you ever wondered why brides (and in Judaism, grooms) wear white? Why does a woman traditionally walk around the man? Why is it better to get married on a Tuesday? These questions, and much more about our wedding customs and their meaning.

February 8 Holiday Rituals (that you didn't realize were strange)

Each holiday has its unique traditions. However, many aren't what they seem to be. Why do we sound the shofar on Rosh Hashanah? What is the origin of the *lulav* and *etrog*? Why do we shake them together? What will happen if you look at a *cohein* while they bless the people? What holiday foods are really meant to be unusual symbols?

March 15 Resurrection and Reincarnation

Do Jews even believe in life after death? Did Christianity take the idea of resurrection of the dead from Judaism? Is reincarnation a Jewish belief? If so, how is it supposed to occur?

No Fee. Please register [HERE](#) so we can contact you with any changes to the schedule.

MONDAY, 7:30 PM

HAZZN'S TISH

with Cantor Shiovitz

Join Cantor Shiovitz for a throwback to “good old fashion community singing.” Come learn z'mirot, camp songs, Israeli songs and others from his award winning official songbook of the Conservative movement “*B'kol Echad: In One Voice.*” It will take place on Monday evening for 7 sessions. Knowledge of Hebrew or great singing voice not required. “*B'kol Echad*” can be found on the CSI website. 11/9, 11/23, 12/7, 12/21, 1/4, 1/25, 2/1

No fee. Please register [HERE](#) so we can contact you with any changes to the schedule. Once your registration is complete, you will receive the zoom link for the class.

MONDAY, 9:00 PM

TALMUD

with Rabbi Kane

No previous knowledge of *Talmud* is required! We'll continue with the study of tractate *Berachot*, one of the most accessible tractates of *Talmud*. Join us and “dip your toe into the sea of the *Talmud*.”

The text is in Hebrew/Aramaic and English. NEW STUDENTS WELCOME!

First class: October 26th

Class fee is \$50 for CSI members, \$100 for non-members.

Registration required. Once your registration is complete, you will receive the zoom link for the class. Register [HERE](#)

TUESDAY, 11:15 AM

JEWS IN THE NEWS

with Rabbi Kane

This is the 27th year of this interesting course which combines current events and conversation. Each week we engage in discussion on subjects ranging from religious issues to exotic Jewish communities.

If you want to keep up with what's happening in the Jewish world, this class is for you! First class: November 10. No fee, please email Dina to register at dina@csibriarcliff.org

TUESDAY, 12:30 PM HaMISHPACHA PROGRAMS

With Cantor Shiovitz

This program is for community couples and singles who are 65 or older. Each month, please join us for a new and interesting program. Upcoming dates: 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8. To RSVP, or for more information and the Zoom link, please email Cantor Shiovitz at jshiovitz@gmail.com

TUESDAY, 7:30 PM

SECOND-GENERATION SURVIVORS

with Cheryl Katz

Tell your family's stories, support each others' experiences and connect with people who might want to be speakers/educators in the future. Upcoming dates: 11/10, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1. Contact Cheryl Katz for information or to register at cabkatz@hotmail.com.

THURSDAY, 10:30 AM

HaMISHPACHA DISCUSSION GROUP

with Shari Baum, CSW

Join in this informative and interesting group discussion about current events. Classes are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. This discussion group is a WJCS Partners in Caring program funded by a generous grant from UJA Federation of New York. For more information and to register, please contact Shari at SBaum@wjcs.com

THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

**THE NEW JEWISH CANON:
IDEAS AND DEBATES
with Dr. Neil Schluger**

Explore, examine and discuss some of the key issues and debates from important Jewish thinkers over the past 40 years. Using Yehuda Kurtzer's and Claire Surfin's new and provocative anthology, *The New Jewish Canon: Ideas and Debates 1980-2015*, we will read and discuss texts and commentaries on the subjects of Jewish history and memory, identity, religious belief, and politics. We'll explore the writings and ideas of thinkers such as Moshe Halberntal, David Hartman, Yosef Yerushalmi, Neil Gillman, Joseph Soloveitchik, Ruth Calderon, Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, and many others. Zoom into one session, a few, or all. 11/5, 18*, 12/3, 17, 1/7, 21, 2/4, 18. No fee. Please register [HERE](#) so we can contact you with any changes to the schedule.

Once your registration is complete, you will receive the zoom link for the class.

*11/18 - Class will be held on Wednesday evening

WOMEN'S WRITING WORKSHOP

In 2015 a group of CSI women came together to form the **Women's Writing Workshop (WWW)**; it meets biweekly at CSI between October and June. The group has just begun its sixth year of creating, writing, sharing, and discussing, albeit presently via Zoom.

Have you ever thought about writing the next great American novel? Or maybe a memoir? An ode to commemorate a special occasion? A limerick to amuse your birthday child? Some reflections on life in the twenty-first century? Or would you like to immortalize tales from family history? How can you pass on your thoughts and hopes to loved ones? Are you inspired by camaraderie within a group of supportive women? If you've answered "yes" to any of the above, a writing group may be for you. Plans are underway to form a second Women's Writing Workshop.

If you would like to learn more, please contact the following for encouragement, support, and details.

Marion Sader: marsader@optonline.net

The Rabbi's Circle at CSI

Our 15th Year

Please join us for this season's opening program
Sunday November 8th at 7:00 pm.

As we welcome

Yehudah Kurtzer

President of the Shalom Hartman Institute
of North America.



"The Recent Election:

What it means for the American Jewish Community and Israel"

Dr. Kurtzer has written extensively on a variety of subjects, including Leadership in American Jewish life and the Relationship Between American Jews, Israel and Zionism.

[ZOOM LINK](#)

The Rabbi's Circle at CSI was created to address the desire of the Jewish community for stimulating adult learning. The program has received international recognition as the recipient of a Sollie – The Solomon Schechter Silver Award in Programming for Adults. The Rabbi's Circle at CSI is solely funded through the generosity of our contributors.

To become a supporter of this innovative program, please click [HERE](#)

GET INVOLVED...

SISTERHOOD AT CSI:

CSI Sisterhood welcomes all women of CSI to join. We are part of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the largest synagogue based women's organization in the world. We offer social and educational programs throughout the year, including speakers, a book club, *Rosh Chodesh* programs and our always popular Sisterhood Shabbat. We support CSI with our annual fundraisers "Honey from the Heart" for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Mishloach Manot* for *Purim*. Sisterhood volunteers always manage *Matanah*, the gift shop of CSI.



Upcoming event: "Coloring and Camaraderie" on November 11 at 7:00 PM.

New this year! Sisterhood is offering complimentary membership to any CSI Members or school families who have not previously joined Sisterhood. Please contact **Robin Ginsberg, Sisterhood president** at robsamg@optonline.net for information about becoming a member.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee was formed 10 years ago to provide different age groups at CSI with a variety of purely social activities over the course of the year. We have one goal: Fun for everyone!

We have had comedy nights, day trips to museums, films, a square dance, a murder mystery, and a table tennis tournament, to name a few. If you have other suggestions or questions, please contact Barbara Schoenfeld at bschoenfeld11@gmail.com

This year, we had a wonderful virtual magician on Oct. 18. Here are other events scheduled-

Virtual Concert on Nov. 15 at 3pm -

Lisa Stein and Matthew Stein, who are multi-talented and sister and brother, will entertain families of all ages with an array of music, including Klezmer, show tunes, opera, Romanian, Celtic, and South Indian. Using a cello, violin, guitar and drums, this dynamic duo will mesmerize you. The zoom link will be sent out the week of the concert.

Please register [HERE](#)

Virtual Show & Tell on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 3 pm- We invite you to join us for a virtual Show and Tell as we prepare for *Chanukah*. Come just for the company, or if you wish, participate by spending a few minutes sharing a *Chanukah* memory, showing a treasured piece of Judaica, such as a family Menorah or your favorite dreidel, or telling a *Chanukah* story. Bring your own refreshments! We hope to see you and spread some *Chanukah* light!! Zoom link will be sent out the week of the event.

*Deadline for signing up is Dec. 4. Please register [HERE](#)

JEWISH MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

2020-2021

This series, now beginning its 33rd year, will be held on Saturday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Programs will include musical demonstrations, discussion, fun and food (well, bring your own nosh to the program.)! Please register so we can contact you with any changes to the schedule. Please register [HERE](#).

December 5— *Hanukkah* Music-Oldies and Newbies-

January 9— Debbie Friedman: A Retrospective on Her 10th *Yahrzeit*

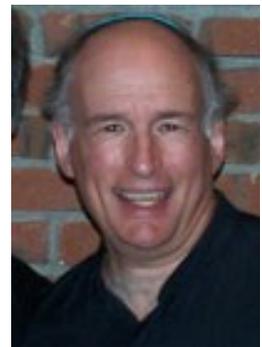
February 6—The Music of Debbie Friedman part 2

March 6—The Who's and What's New in Jewish Music

CSI PRESENTS A VIRTUAL EVENING OF MUSIC FEATURING SINGER/SONGWRITER

ROBBIE SOLOMON

SATURDAY EVENING, 1/30 at 8:00 PM



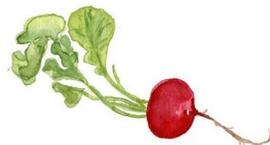
Robbie Solomon is a legendary composer of contemporary Jewish music. He is the lead singer and composer for the popular Jewish music group, SAFAM and his works have been performed and recorded by numerous cantors and choirs throughout the world.

For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#)

CSI MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club offers exciting programs throughout the year. For more information or to join, please contact Jason Eidlitz at jshoedog@optonline.net

For information about the Men's Club Book Club, please contact Alan Grotenstein at agrotenstein@gmail.com



CSI Community Organic Farm

Regenerative Agriculture Rooted in Jewish Tradition



For more information, please contact Rynalustig@gmail.com



CSI Clergy & Staff:

Rabbi Steven C. Kane	Rabbi@csibriarcliff.org
Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz	Jshiovitz@gmail.com
Libby Spitzer Assistant Educational Director	Libby.spitzer@csibriarcliff.org
Naomi Elyachar Nursery School Director	Naomi.elyachar@csibriarcliff.org
Ellen Green Johnson Synagogue Director	Ellen@csibriarcliff.org
Andrea Bromberg USY/Kadima Advisor	CSIUSY@csibriarcliff.org
Dina Katz Rabbi's Assistant	Dina@csibriarcliff.org
Janice Rappaport Administrative Assistant	Janice@csibriarcliff.org
Jennifer Halperin Administrative Assistant	Jenniferh@csibriarcliff.org

Officers:

President	Clare Rosen
Treasurer	Robert Margolies
Secretary	Marc Auslander
Vice President	Robin Ginsberg
Vice President	Jill Greenstein
Vice President	Mark Rosenberg
Vice President	Fred Schulman
Immediate Past President	Steve Bender

Synagogue Trustees

First Year Trustees	Second Year Trustees	Third Year Trustees
Shane Dolch	Roberta Bar-Levav	Orit Daly
Jenean Eichenholtz	Judith Boehr	Donna Hannan
Suzanne Haber	Jason Eidlitz	Deborah Hertz Levitt
Marion Sader	Francine Goldstein	David Metzger
Eric Wrubel	Samantha Hawson	Bette Slutsky
Debra Young	Henrik Sukonnik	Jessica Weintraub

Adult Learning Faculty Members:

Rabbi Steven C. Kane: Rabbi, Congregation Sons of Israel

Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz: Cantor, Congregation Sons of Israel

Shari Baum, LMSW is Coordinator of the Partners In Caring program at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS). Partners in Caring is generously funded by UJA Federation of New York. Shari received her Masters in Social Work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Neil Schluger, M.D. is Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and Chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine there as well. He also serves as Senior Advisor for Science at Vital Strategies, an NGO devoted to global public health issues. He has studied for many years at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Jan Uhrbach is Director of Liturgical Arts at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is also a well-known teacher of Torah and a gifted writer and liturgist.