Open Minds

LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE
2019–2020 / 5780

POW

A Weekend of
Pop Culture Torah and Hands-On Learning

PAPER MIDRASH
Teaching Jewish Texts through the
Art of Paper Cuts and Comic Books

With Artist Isaac and Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik

Visual Sermon During Shabbat Services
Friday, January 24 | 8:00 pm
Art and Torah Study
Saturday, January 25 | 9:00 am
Workshop: Make-Your-Own Papercut
Sunday, January 26 | 9:30 am

BAM!
ABOUT OPEN MINDS

Open Minds is an initiative to enhance lifelong learning for adults of all ages and stages. Let’s connect with one another and connect with new ideas. Register at commsyn.org.

CLASS SERIES

Judaism 101
Tuesdays, October 22 through April 7 | 8:00–9:30 pm
An introductory course on many aspects of Jewish life, approached through a Reform lens. Designed for anyone who wants a “refresher” on the basics, for interfaith couples, and for those considering becoming Jewish.

Kabbalah Part 2: From The Zohar to Modern Mindfulness
Tuesdays, January 14 through February 11 | 9:30–11:00 am
This class, a continuation of last year’s popular Kabbalah class will explore the growth of Jewish mystical thought from the Zohar (12th century) through Lurianic Kabbalah (16th century), the fluorescence of modern Hasidism and rise of contemporary Jewish movements of spiritual renewal. Through text and mystical techniques, participants will explore the power of kabbalah to center one’s soul, providing answers to why there is evil and suffering, and giving us the power to live a life of cosmic purpose and meaning.

Leadership: The Potentials and the Perils — Taught Online via Zoom
Thursdays, November 21 through May 7 | 12:30–1:00 pm
The Community Synagogue’s first-ever online course, offered via Zoom. Rabbi Z explores models of leadership throughout Jewish history.

Shabbat Torah Study
Saturdays | 9:00–10:15 am
Our most regular opportunity for adult learning, and a chance to connect and struggle with our sacred texts. No background knowledge needed; all are welcome.

Sisterhood Study Group: The Ten Commandments
Mondays, October 7 through June 15 | 7:30–9:30 pm
Explore how each of the Ten Commandments provides us with beliefs, principles and standards of behavior. For more information, contact Yvette Bergman at ybbergman@aol.com.

TCS BOOK CLUB

Catch-67: The Left, the Right and the Legacy of the Six-Day War
by Micah Goodman
Monday, February 10 | 7:30 pm
Rabbi Z leads a conversation on this controversial examination of the internal Israeli debate over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a best-selling Israeli author.

Gateway to the Moon
by Mary Morris
Monday, March 23 | 7:30 pm
A discussion led by Evie Schonbrun on this moving work of historical fiction, in which a young man discovers the connections between his own family and the Jews expelled from Spain five hundred years earlier.
**HOLIDAY LEARNING**

**Purim Study and Megillah Reading**
Monday, March 9 | 7:30 pm
An exploration of the themes of Purim, as they pertain to our lives as adults today. The evening will include readings from the Book of Esther.

**Do-It-Yourself Passover Workshops**
Get a refresher on the parts of a Passover Seder, and learn tips for a Seder that is meaningful for your family, your friends, and yourself. Whether you’re gathering only with adults or also with children, there is a workshop for all.

- **Making Seder Come Alive for Adults**
  Thursday, March 26 | 7:30 pm
- **Making Seder Come Alive for Children**
  Thursday, April 2 | 9:30 am

**Fast of the Firstborn Study**
Wednesday, April 8 | 7:30 am
Rabbi Z’s annual study session on themes of the Passover holiday. Includes a light breakfast with the final hametz before the holiday.

**COOKING WORKSHOPS**

Learn to prepare delicious and easy dishes for yourself, your friends, and your family, and discover Jewish connections to your favorite foods. All levels of experience welcome.

- **Noshpitality Weeknight Essentials**
  Thursday, October 24 | 9:30 am
- **Thai Cooking**
  Wednesday, November 20 | 7:00 pm
- **Noshpitality Middle Eastern Cooking**
  Thursday, January 30 | 9:30 am

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Please consider a sponsorship to support Open Minds–Lifelong Learning at The Community Synagogue and all programs at The Community Synagogue. Donations of all amounts are welcome. Support at the following levels includes recognition and complimentary admission, with advanced registration, to all Open Minds programs in 2019-2020.

- **SAGE $5,400**
- **SCRIBE $3,600**
- **SCHOLAR $1,800**

To become an Open Minds sponsor, please contact one of the Lifelong Learning co-chairs, Melissa Schilthouze Welsh at melissasw@gmail.com or Renee Kamin at rkmel@aol.com. Thank you for supporting Open Minds–Lifelong Learning and all programs at The Community Synagogue!

**FILMS & LECTURES**

**Memory After Belsen: The Future of Holocaust Memory**
Thursday, April 23 | 7:30 pm
The story of thirty-year-old Robin Thaler Hickey, who travels to Bergen-Belsen where she learns details about her grandmother’s experiences during and after World War II. As Robin learns about her grandmother’s history, viewers confront issues central to Holocaust memory. Special Q&A with writer and producer Joshua Greene.

- **Rabbi Josh Weinberg**
  Friday, March 6 | 8:00 pm | Shabbat Sermon
  Rabbi Josh Weinberg, who serves as the Vice President of the URJ for Israel and Reform Zionism and as Executive Director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, speaks passionately about the importance of Israel and our engagement with it.

**92Y Lecture Series**
6 Programs: Wednesdays, September 18 through June 17 | 7:30 pm
Lively evenings with today’s greatest thinkers and leaders. Sponsored by Brotherhood. For more information, please go to www.commsyn.org/92Y.

**SUNDAY ARTS WORKSHOPS**

**Create a Fused Glass Mezuzah**
Sunday, November 3 | 9:00-10:30 am
Learn about the mezuzah and why we hang it on our doorframes. Make your own beautiful mezuzah of fused glass to hang in your own home or to give as a gift. With artist Sasha Kopp.

**Paper Midrash Make-Your-Own Papercut Artwork**
Sunday, January 26 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
As part of our Paper Midrash weekend, join “dynamic duo” Isaac and Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik for a hands-on papercutting workshop where you’ll have the opportunity to study text and create your own visual midrash.

**Writing with a Jewish Soul**
Sunday, March 15 | 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Writer Amy Schilthouze Greenberg leads us on an exploration of our Jewish journeys. No experience necessary for this fun and moving poetry and short fiction workshop.
Judaism 101 is an engaging, multi-session course for anyone interested in exploring Jewish life through a Reform lens. This course is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

**SEPTEMBER**
- **92Y Lecture Series**
  - Wednesdays, September 18 – June 17 | 7:30 pm
- **Sisterhood Study Group: Ten Commandments**
  - Mondays, October 7 – June 15 | 7:30 pm
- **Judaism 101**
  - Tuesdays, October 22 – April 7 | 8:00 pm
- **Noshpitality Weeknight Essentials**
  - Thursday, October 2 | 9:30 am

**OCTOBER**
- **Create a Fused Glass Mezuzah**
  - Sunday, November 3 | 9:00 am
- **Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom**
  - Thursday, November 7 | 7:30 pm
- **Thai Cooking**
  - Thursday, January 30 | 9:30 am
- **Leadership: The Potentials and the Perils**
  - Thursdays, November 21 – May 7 | 12:30 pm

**NOVEMBER**
- **The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia**
  - Thursday, December 5 | 7:30 pm
- **Kabbalah Part 2**
  - Tuesdays, January 14 – February 11 | 9:30 am
- **Paper Midrash Artists/Scholars in Residence**
  - Friday – Sunday | January 24 – 26
- **Noshpitality Middle Eastern Cooking**
  - Thursday, January 30 | 9:30 am

**FEBRUARY**
- **The Words of My Father**
  - Thursday, February 6 | 7:30 pm
- **Book Club: Catch-27**
  - Monday, February 10 | 7:30 pm

**MARCH**
- **Rabbi Josh Weinberg**
  - Friday, March 6 | 8:00 pm
- **Purim Study and Megillah Reading**
  - Monday, March 9 | 7:30 pm
- **Writing with a Jewish Soul**
  - Sunday, March 15 | 11:00 am
- **Book Club: Gateway to the Moon**
  - Monday, March 23 | 7:30 pm
- **Making Seder Come Alive for Adults**
  - Thursday, March 26 | 7:30 pm

**APRIL**
- **Making Seder Come Alive for Children**
  - Thursday, April 2 | 9:30 am
- **Annual Fast of the Firstborn Study**
  - Wednesday, April 8 | 7:30 am
- **Memory After Belsen**
  - Thursday, April 23 | 7:30 pm

**MAY**
- **More Than Words**
  - Tuesday, May 26 | 7:30 pm

Register at www.commsyn.org