

# הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection - Jewish Studies for Free

*Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee*

*By Linda S Trapasso*

When Rabbi Jon said he was looking to start an adult Bar/t Mitzvah class, I remembered how much I enjoyed studying for my adult Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Finkel. But learning isn't limited to bar/t mitzvah study – you can do it anytime you choose! And I found some great online choices for Jewish Studies.

Rutgers University in NJ houses the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life (<http://bildnercenter.rutgers.edu/online-studies>). The Center offers free, non-credit courses. Scroll down to see the link for FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and registration (it's free). The professors for the online course are Rutgers faculty or visiting faculty. There are currently six courses available, from history to rabbinic literature to politics.

The Sephardi Studies Project at Stanford University in CA plans to explore the history and culture of Sephardi and eastern Jewries (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/jewishstudies/programs/sephardi/>). Currently the Project has books in Ladino posted with transliteration and translation available for viewing and study.



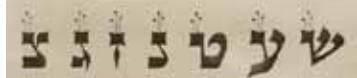
Double gate and southern steps of the Temple Mount

If you'd rather listen to lectures, than go to iTunes (<http://itunes.apple.com>). Search for The Foundation for Jewish Studies and you'll find a list of nearly 100 podcasts, all free. Some sample titles: Rethinking Jewish Beliefs, The Sabbath Soul, and Did Women Study Torah in the Talmudic Period. If you don't have iTunes, don't worry – go to the Foundation's web site (<http://www.foundjs.org/index.php>)

and click Online Learning in the menu bar. You can download podcasts from this page.

There are also Web sites that list free courses or lectures and other resources.

The Do It Yourself Scholar has a section on Jewish Studies (<http://diyscholar.wordpress.com/category/jewish-studies/>). This is a blog and it is a list of blog posts. However, to the right are links to more resources, both local and beyond. The blogger states "For the last few years my hobby has been roaming the web, and listening to university course and lecture podcasts. I started this blog to share what I have learned about the best free courses and lectures."



The Michigan Jewish Institute (<http://www.mji.edu/>) offers a program in Judaic Studies. Though it is not free nor is it available online, there is an extensive list of resources. From the main page, click MJI Library on the menu bar. On the next page, on the right, under In This Section, click Online Resources and Guides. On the next page, on the right, under In This Section, click Judaic Studies Guide. This Guide lists references, texts, electronic books, and Web sites. And you don't need to be on campus or a member to access.

This is short introduction to what you can learn (for free) on the Web. You can always do your own search, in which case you may find something different. But that's the whole idea of the Web – something for everybody!