A program of Adult Jewish Learning created just for YOU!

Adult Education Catalog
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020
Dear TBH-BE Members,

Shanah Tovah!

Once again, we have created a wonderful adult education program just for you. We are proud to present classes with teachers from prior years along with some new options—all for your inspiration and enjoyment.

As always, our array of classes are planned to fit the varying needs and interests of our members. Some classes are short term, others are long term; some meet weekly and a few are offered as stand-alone sessions. Our expanded Shabbat morning experience will continue this year with thought-provoking classes. We hope you will join us for one of the sessions offered on Shabbat morning. These classes are designed to conclude prior to the Torah service.

With very limited exceptions, our adult education program is again presented by TBH-BE congregants. This is a reflection of the depth and breadth of our talented and accomplished congregation. Sincere thanks are extended to our members who are generously giving their time and expertise to teach a course just for you. Classes are complimentary as a benefit of your TBH-BE membership. All classes will take place at TBH-BE unless otherwise noted. Please join us for as many classes as you like. We are confident that your participation in adult Jewish education at TBH-BE will, as always, prove to be thought provoking, intellectually stimulating—and fun!

We look forward to learning with you.

Rabbi Neil Cooper, Rabbi
Joel Freedman, President

Randy Goldberg, Adult Ed Chair Hallie Chandler, Director of Community Engagement

Save These Dates

**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**
Saturday, December 6

**ADULT RETREAT WITH RABBI COOPER**
Saturday—Sunday, February 15—16

**MEN’S CLUB WORLD WIDE WRAP**
Sunday, February 2

**TORATHON—**
**AN EVENING OF LEARNING AND DISCOVERY**
Saturday, February 1

**YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION PROGRAM**
Sunday, April 19

**TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT—ALL NIGHT TORAH STUDY**
Thursday, May 28
Dr. Saul Wachs was the Rosaline B. Feinstein Professor of Education and Liturgy and Chair of the Education Department at Gratz College until his retirement in 2017. Dr. Wachs has been named by Gratz as Professor Emeritus. He holds degrees in education, Jewish education, and Jewish music. Saul, the author of over 70 publications, is a member of TBH-BE.

Rita Ross has been a member of TBH-BE since 1963. After raising five children, Rita returned to teaching at the Perelman Jewish Day School where she taught first grade for 27 years. Since her retirement 10 years ago, she has written two books, traveled, lectured about her experience during the Holocaust, and been an active member of our synagogue.

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How the World Changed Judaism

Tuesdays, 7:30 PM
October 29, November 5 & 12

With Dr. Saul Wachs

Since its very beginnings, the ancestors of the Jewish people interacted with other cultures. Influence was mutual. Jews profoundly influenced world culture but also had to deal with the ongoing influence of their neighbors. They responded in three ways:

- Attempted rejection (circling the wagons)
- Enthusiastic accommodation or assimilation
- Acculturation, partial accommodation, maintenance of tradition

Those responses continue in our own time. The reality of any minority forces it to confront the challenge of living in two cultures. We will look at some examples of where Judaism was affected by contact with other cultures but managed to maintain its own integrity, by modifying outside influences, and selectively adapting external ideas and practices.

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Classes

Sundays, 10:15 AM—11:30 AM
Beginning October 27

With Hazzan Rosner

Did you miss out on celebrating your Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a child? Have you recently converted to Judaism and are looking for your next learning opportunity? Are you interested in learning Judaism’s basic tenets and skills to participate in services?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, our Adult B’nai Mitzvah class is for you! This class will be led by Hazzan Rosner, with the participation of Rabbi Cooper and other teachers. In addition to strengthening your Hebrew reading skills and learning the Torah trope (melody for chanting), we will also learn how and when to use the various red texts in our services, how the Torah and the Hebrew Bible differ, and what it means when someone says, “the rabbis teach…” (What rabbis? Where do they teach it?) and much more!
Jewish law has some provocative insights and rulings. Some examples even offer strong parallels to contemporary situations. Join us for a five-part exploration of Jewish sources on the subject, how these fit in with the other Jewish values, and how the rabbis' perspectives, ancient and modern, compare with developing American attitudes towards privacy. Note that neither the Torah nor the American Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution nor The Amendments address this question directly.

**Jewish Ethics:**
**Attitudes toward Privacy**

**With Dr. Emilie Passow**

The internet and various kinds of electronic tracking devices have complicated the issue of privacy tremendously, but it is an issue that needed guidelines ever since two Neanderthals shared a cave. Jewish law has some provocative insights and rulings. Some examples even offer strong parallels to contemporary situations. Join us for a five-part exploration of Jewish sources on the subject, how these fit in with the other Jewish values, and how the rabbis' perspectives, ancient and modern, compare with developing American attitudes towards privacy. Note that neither the Torah nor the American Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution nor The Amendments address this question directly.

**Course Instructors**

**Rabbi Neil S. Cooper** is beginning his twenty-ninth year as the spiritual leader of TBH-BE. He previously served as Rabbi of Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, New Jersey and as Director of Camp Ramah in Canada. He was ordained in 1979 at The Jewish Theological Seminary where he also received his master’s degree in Rabbinics. He also earned a master’s degree in social work from Columbia University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

**Dr. Emilie Passow** was, until her retirement in 2016, Director of the Certificate Program in Medical Humanities and Associate Teaching Professor of English and Judaic Studies at Drexel University. Emilie also has been a "students favorite" teacher in the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

**Adena Potok** is a teacher of students of all ages, from young children to adults. She studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned a master’s degree in social work from UCLA. She taught at Camp Ramah for over 20 years, was on the faculty for the JCC’s Samuel Daroff Adult Studies and has chaired multiple adult studies programs at TBH-BE.

**Hazzan Eugene Rosner** is beginning his thirtieth year as the cantor of TBH-BE, sharing with congregants his enthusiasm, talent and passion for Jewish choral music through his beautiful chanting and singing as well as his directing the synagogue’s choir. In recognition of his musical programming, Cantor Rosner has received numerous Solomon Schechter awards from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. He graduated from the Cantor’s Institute at The Jewish Theological Seminary with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sacred Music and a Diploma of Hazzan and he received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Queens College, CUNY.

**Sources from the Sermon: Tales From the Midrash**

**With Rabbi Neil Cooper**

This class looks back 1,500 – 2,000 years to classic Midrashic sources. We will read our stories through the eyes of our Sages. Although the stories are old, the insights are surprisingly modern and applicable to our lives today.
Scholar-in-Residence
DR. YIZHAR HESS

December 6, 2019

Dr. Yizhar Hess is a 10th generation Jerusalemite. Following his military service, Yizhar earned a BA in Political Science and Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A member of the Israeli Bar, his law degree is from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. He holds an MA in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem and a PhD in Sociology and Education from Sussex University in Brighton, England.

Yizhar has a broad range of experience in Jewish communal service. After holding the Deputy Director position at the Shorashim Centre for Jewish Studies, Yizhar served as the Jewish Agency’s community shaliach to Tucson. On his return to Israel, he worked for the Jewish Agency as Director of Partnerships.

Yizhar has professional experience in advertising and journalism. He is a regular contributor to the Israeli press on the subjects of religion and state and is the co-editor of the book, “Questions About God,” published by Ma'ariv.

Since 2007, Yizhar serves as the Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel - part of the worldwide Conservative/Masorti Movement dedicated to a traditional, egalitarian and pluralistic vision of Israel and Judaism. Yizhar represented the Masorti Movement in the negotiations with the Israeli government regarding egalitarian prayer at the Kotel, and he is one of the leading voices in Israel promoting Jewish pluralism.

Yizhar lives in Modi'in with his wife Yael, a former colonel in the IDF, and their two children Achiad and Mikah.

Your Shabbat Experience...
Courses just for you on Shabbat. Grab a cup of coffee before we begin.

Mishneh Torah
With Rabbi Neil Cooper
Shabbat, 8:45 AM — 9:30 AM
Begin your Shabbat morning with a lively discussion of Maimonides’ Mishneh Torah. Week by week, we study and seek to discern the depth of meaning of this formative text, which is the foundation for our system of halachah (Jewish law). Attend weekly or drop in when you can.

Parashat HaShavuah: The Weekly Torah Portion
With Michael Elkins and Paul Gaspari
Shabbat, 9:15 AM — 10:15 AM
Every Shabbat with Shabbat School
Each week enjoy a Shabbat morning discussion of Parashat HaShavuah (the weekly Torah portion). You may anticipate an hour filled with lively exploration and discussion of the Torah’s many wonderful (and often challenging) stories and themes. Attend weekly or drop in whenever you can make it!

@tbhbe.ed
IS BY YOU, WITH YOU AND FOR YOU.
As we expand and continue to evolve our adult education program, we invite you to consider taking your place on the other side of the podium. Share your knowledge with your fellow congregants!
Are you interested in teaching a course for your TBH-BE community? If so, we would be delighted to hear from you. Tell us what you would like to offer by providing a description of your class, the number of sessions you would like to present, and where you envision the class taking place. At TBH-BE? At your home? At a coffee shop? Feel free to be creative!
Please reach out to Randy Goldberg (rggoldberg@me.com) with your ideas and questions. We will get in touch with you thereafter to make your idea a reality! We thank you in advance for your interest in enhancing our community.
Ongoing Programs

“Tehillim”/Psalms Study Class

With Adena Potok

More familiar than much of our Tanakh (Bible) - Psalms flows “trippingly off the tongue.” We recite or quote them in daily prayer, in grace after meals, and at a funeral. While on occasion we might feel “at a loss for words,” our tradition often provides the framework for what we want to say. Wouldn’t it be cool to have them on hand to be used as needed?

Knitting with Hesed & Bikkur Holim

With Rita Ross

This year, in conjunction with the Hesed Committee and Bikkur Holim, Rita Ross will lead a class in crocheting and knitting afghans and chemo caps for the members of our community who might need to be comforted. All levels of experience are encouraged to attend. Please bring your yarn and crochet hook or knitting needles.

Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Woman’s Thing

Leader varies each session

A monthly program of learning, sharing and celebration, this Sisterhood event rejoices in the first day of each new month on the Jewish calendar. Traditionally, this day has been associated with women as a time to learn, share, study, eat, and build relationships.

The first session will be held October 30, Rosh Hodesh Heshvan. The remaining dates for the year are: December 3, January 27, February 25, March 26, April 23. RSVP to Rachel Dunaief (rachjoshd@gmail.com).

Men’s Club Book Club

“Let The Great World Spin” by Colum McCann.

Monday, November 4
7:30pm
Home of Larry Nathanson

The 33rd Annual Torathon!

An Evening of Discovery and Learning

Saturday, February 1, beginning at 6:30 PM

Torathon 2020 continues a wonderful TBHBE tradition – a one-night learning experience featuring scintillating Jewish scholarship coupled with the exploration of current and relevant topics. This year’s program offers the opportunity to learn from fifteen distinguished scholars, rabbis and subject matter experts. Some of the planned classes include:

* The Simpsons and the Talmud
* The Spiritual Status of Jerusalem Today
* Jewish Dimension in American Art
* Ten Commandments display in public places

Watch the eHighlights and The Pharisee for further information.