

2016 - 2017 | 5777



Limmud Reyim

Adult Learning Program

לימוד רעים

of Temple Reyim
Newton, Massachusetts

Limmud Reyim is an adult learning program designed to provide diverse learning opportunities for those in our community who are seeking a deeper and more meaningful engagement with Judaism.

Special Holiday Learning Programs

The festivals are an important part in the life of the synagogue. This year, we will offer the following special adult learning programs as part of the synagogue's holiday programming.

Selichot: Movie, Discussion and Services

Saturday, September 24 • 8:30 p.m.

Join the congregation for a viewing of the award-winning Israeli film “Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem,” followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Berman, and Selichot services beginning at about 11 p.m.

Preparing for the High Holidays

Thursday, September 15 • 7:30 p.m.

Please join us during the month of Elul for evening prayer. Rabbi Berman will lead us in maariv and teach about prayer as a powerful way to prepare for the High Holy Days.

Tu B'Shevat: A Communal Seder

Sunday, February 12 • 10 a.m.

Join Rabbi Berman and Rabbinic intern Laura Bellows for a sweet and savory seder of ancient fruits and grains from the Land of Israel.



Yom Ha Shoah: Tania Lefman

Sunday, April 23 • 7:30 p.m.

We are grateful to have Tania Lefman as our speaker at this year's Holocaust Remembrance program



to share her story about the Holocaust and her life. A member of Temple Reyim, Tania is a survivor

of the Koretz ghetto in Poland. She is a founding member and treasurer of the Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants of Greater Boston.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Tuesday, May 30 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a special evening of coffee, dairy delicacies and late night learning during our Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, a Jewish mystical tradition.



Hebrew and Text Classes

Our ongoing classes have developed loyal and devoted followings, but we are always interested in having new students. Come once, or every class, but check us out.

Hebrew Reading for Beginners

*Wednesdays, beginning
November 2 • 10-11 a.m.*

This class will teach you what you need to know to decode Hebrew texts and develop your Hebrew reading skills. For students with no knowledge of Hebrew or with some exposure. We'll start with a basic *Alef Bet* primer (cost approx. \$18). Once everyone is comfortable with all the letters and vowels, the class will continue with basic prayer-book Hebrew (text approx. \$20). We'll cover some basic vocabulary and grammar to understand many of the prayers in the siddur. Taught by congregant Michele Koppelman, pieceful@gmail.com.

Chug Ivrit: Hebrew Conversation Group

*Second and fourth Wednesdays
of each month • 7:30 p.m.*

The Chug is a continuing conversational Hebrew group guided by Aya Schlair, a native Israeli and an experienced and patient teacher. Join us as we meet twice a month to gain confidence and skill in hearing and speaking Hebrew by sharing in conversations about recent experiences – family events, work, travels, movies, books, or other topics of interest. Contact David Stollar, david.stollar@tufts.edu, for more information.

Biblical Hebrew

*Second and fourth Mondays
of each month • 7:30 p.m.*

Study Biblical Hebrew grammar and texts with Bruce Rosen, former Biblical Hebrew Instructor at Brandeis University. The main goal of the class is to help improve our understanding of the plain meaning of the Biblical text, its vocabulary and grammar, using study guides. Participants need to be able to read Hebrew; prior knowledge of modern Hebrew is helpful, but not required. Contact Joe Weisburd, jfweisb@yahoo.com, for more information.

Torah Study with Rabbi Berman

*First and third Thursdays
of each month • 12:30 p.m.*

Study Torah with Rabbi Berman and a congenial group of congregants. We do a close reading of the text in English, occasionally delving into the Hebrew to examine the meaning of a word. Commentaries, including Rashi, may be considered. Discussion is encouraged. Contact Carol Stollar, carolstollar@hotmail.com, for more information.

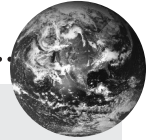
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A Taste of Jewish Mysticism and Hasidism, Part II, with Rabbi Berman

Spring 2017 dates TBD

This spring we will continue our study of the core concepts and teachings in Jewish mysticism and Hasidism. What can our Jewish mystical and Hasidic traditions teach us about our own spiritual lives? Our class includes singing, wine and rugelach! New students welcome.



Friday Night Limmud: Jewish Communities Around the World

Join us for a late Kabbalat Shabbat Service (starting at 7:30 p.m.), followed by a talk by a congregant about his or her experiences growing up and living in a Jewish community outside the United States. A delicious Oneg Shabbat follows. In the past, these talks have not only been enlightening about different Jewish (and non-Jewish) cultures, but also have given the congregation an opportunity to learn more about some of the incredibly interesting people in our community.



**David Goldwater
(Rhodesia)**

Friday, October 28



**Daniel Kohane
(Switzerland)**

Friday, December 9



**Lina Zaslavsky
(Russia)**

Friday, January 27

Reyim Community Beit Midrash

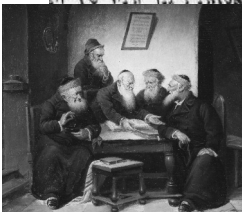
Beit Midrash is typically translated as a “house of study,” but we can also call it a “home of investigation and inquiry.” The Beit Midrash is rooted in ancient rabbinic tradition as a sacred space for Torah and marked by its unique learning style called hevruta, or learning partnership. Again this year, our Beit Midrash will meet once a month, usually on Sunday mornings. We are thrilled to bring many prominent scholars to Reyim throughout the year – including members of our congregation – who will teach a shiur (lesson), guide our hevruta text study, and lead us in a community conversation on dynamic questions of Jewish law, ethics, spirituality and history.

Rabbi Daniel Berman: Folklore of the Talmud Part I – Ancient Stories that Shape Jewish Thought and Life

Sunday, November 13 • 10 a.m.



We will learn well-known and influential rabbinic stories in the Talmud. These stories are what we call “aggadah,” which include ancient folklore, historical anecdotes, moral exhortations, and practical advice. Together with halacha, these stories make up much of classic Jewish thought and theology.



Rabbi Ebn Leader: Making God Present in Your Life – A Spiritual Approach to Halacha

Sunday, December 18 • 7 p.m.



What is halacha and how did it develop? Is halacha made up of strictly legal opinions? Or can we approach halachic practice and Jewish observance as a profoundly personal and spiritual process? We’ll explore these questions together.

Ebn Leader is on the faculty at Hebrew College Rabbinical School. Leader has a growing international reputation as a Jewish spiritual teacher in the neo-Hasidic tradition and is an authority on Jewish prayer. He is co-editor, with Rabbi Or Rose, of *God in All Moments: Mystical and Practical Wisdom From Hasidic Masters* (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2011).

Yehuda Mirsky: Jewish Questions, Israeli Answers—Israel's Religious Politics and the Shape of Modernity

Sunday, January 22 • 10 a.m.

Yehudah Mirsky is associate professor of the practice of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He graduated from Yale Law School, where he



was an editor of the law review, and completed his Ph.D in Religion at Harvard.

He worked in

Washington as an aide to then-Senators Bob Kerrey and Al Gore, and at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and served in the Clinton Administration as special advisor in the U.S. State Department's Human Rights Bureau. From 2002-2012 he lived in Israel and was a fellow at the Van Leer Institute and Jewish People Policy Institute. He is the author of numerous popular and scholarly works, including the widely-acclaimed volume, *Rav Kook: Mystic in a Time of Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2014).

Jackie Vayntrub: On Beauty and Wisdom in Proverbs

Sunday, February 5 • 10 a.m.

Jacqueline Vayntrub is Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Brandeis University. Earning her Ph.D with honors from the



University of Chicago, Professor Vayntrub focuses her research on the formation of the

Hebrew Bible and Biblical poetry. Her work seeks to recover the values of ancient literary culture through the language of the texts and examines how these values were reshaped in their reception.

Peter Machinist: The Bible and Monotheism?

Sunday, March 5 • 10 a.m.

If there is one feature that most readers associate with the Bible, it is monotheism: the belief that there



is only one God. For many, this is the Bible's unique contribution to world history and its defining characteristic.

But was monotheism the discovery of the Bible, something not known before? Or did the biblical authors borrow it from elsewhere? And is the Bible really monotheistic, or put otherwise: do the biblical authors approach the concept of divinity only monotheistically? What, after all, is monotheism, and why should we be concerned with whether the Bible is monotheistic or not? These will be the questions of our talk and discussion.

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Peter Machinist was the Hancock Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages at Harvard Divinity School and was also on the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The author of books and dozens of articles, Professor Machinist's primary interest is in the cultural, intellectual, and social history of the ancient Near East, focusing particularly on ancient Israel and the Hebrew Bible, and ancient Mesopotamia. Peter and his wife Alice are also members of Temple Reyim.

**Rabbi Daniel Berman:
Folklore of the Talmud Part II –
Ancient Stories that Shape
Jewish Thought and Life**

Sunday, April 30 • 10 a.m.

Rabbi Berman will continue teaching about Jewish stories and folklore in the Talmud.

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**Reyim Community
Beit Midrash**



- Rabbi Daniel Berman • November 13
- Rabbi Ebn Leader • December 18
- Professor Yehuda Mirsky • January 22
- Professor Jackie Vayntrub • February 5
- Professor Peter Machinist • March 5
- Rabbi Daniel Berman • April 30
- Professor Eugene Sheppard • May 21

**Eugene Sheppard: Rebellion
and Renewal – Reflections on
Radical Critique and Visions
of Community**

Sunday, May 21 • 10 a.m.

Radical criticisms of Jewish norms have served as the lever for different iterations of what it means to be



Jewish and part of a Jewish community from the very beginnings of Judaism until today. This

session will explore the dynamics of how Judaism has been and continues to be contested and transformed by means of fundamental critique and redefinition of Jewish belonging.

Eugene Sheppard is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought at Brandeis University, as well as the Director of the History of Ideas program, Associate Director of the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, and associate editor of the Tauber Institute Series with Brandeis University Press. His areas of expertise include Modern European Jewish Intellectual History, History of Jewish Nationalism and Zionism, and Modern European Intellectual History and the History of Continental Philosophy. Among his many publications is *Leo Strauss and the Politics of Exile: The Making of a Political Philosopher* (Brandeis University Press 2007). Eugene and wife Shira Diner are members of Temple Reyim.

Special Programs

Kallah with Gary A. Rendsburg: The Dead Sea Scrolls at 70
Friday, March 31-Sunday, April 2



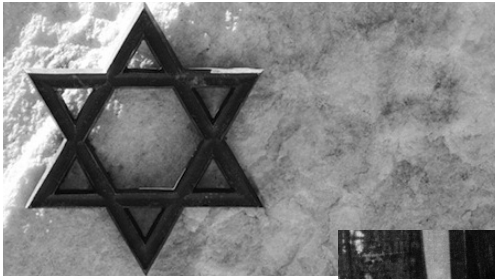
This year's scholar in residence, Professor Gary Rendsburg, will be lecturing about the Dead Sea Scrolls on the 70th anniversary of their discovery. Our understanding of ancient Judaism has been revolutionized by the discovery of the first Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the further explorations and excavations which lasted until 1956, and the ensuing scholarship. Why are the documents so important? What have we learned in the last 70 years? In his first

two talks, Professor Rendsburg will present a series of texts, one related to the ancient Jewish sect's theology and organization, and the other related to its halacha. In his third talk, he will illuminate the story of the scrolls' discovery, the nature of the caves, the archaeological site of Qumran, and the digitalization of the scrolls.

Professor Rendsburg is the Blanche and Irving Laurie Professor of Jewish History at Rutgers University, and holds positions in the Department of Jewish Studies and the Department of History. His teaching and research focus on "all things ancient Israel" – primarily language and literature, though just as importantly history and archaeology. His academic pursuits also expand into the post-biblical and medieval periods, with special interest in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Geniza documents.

The author of six books and approximately 120 scholarly articles, Professor Rendsburg is perhaps best known for his general survey of the biblical world entitled *The Bible and the Ancient Near East* (1997). His most recent book is entitled *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs* (2009). He earned a B.A. degree in English from the University of North Carolina, and an M.A. and Ph.D. degrees (1977, 1980) in Hebrew Studies from New York University.





Introduction to Israeli Literature

*Tuesdays, November 1, 15, December 6 • 7:15 p.m.
Dates in the spring TBD*

Following our successful two-year Tzion class on the history of Zionism and Israel, our “post Tzion” class focuses on Israeli literature. We will begin by studying the early stages of the revival of the Hebrew language, next turn to the writings of Israeli authors who were influenced by the 1948 War and the foundation of the State of Israel, and then explore the writings of those who confronted the painful issues of the Holocaust and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The course will be taught by Aviv Ben-Or, an award-winning lecturer and Ph.D student in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University.

The course will have six sessions, three in the fall (every other Tuesday starting November 1) and three in the spring (exact dates TBD). Readings are primarily poetry and short stories, with some secondary scholarship. All readings are in English. The cost of the course is \$160 per person. To register, or for additional information, please contact Ian Noy at iannoy6@gmail.com or the Reyim office.



LimmudBoston at Temple Reyim

Sunday, December 4 • All Day

We are pleased to host the seventh annual LimmudBoston this year.

What is it? It's a "happening," a Jewish learningfest of culture and identity. From storytelling, music and

meditation to Torah and Talmud, LimmudBoston offers inspiration and education – engaging beginners and scholars alike. LimmudBoston will offer dozens of sessions throughout the day. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity by registering to attend or to volunteer to help with the event. For more information, go to <https://limmudboston.org>. Watch for details on the schedule of events.



Introduction to Jewish Genealogy

Sunday, November 20 • 10 a.m.



Join Cary Aufseeser of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Boston as he presents an Introduction to Jewish Genealogy. Among other things, you will learn what's "Jewish" in Jewish Genealogy, how to get started researching your roots, where to find records of your ancestors, what are the most important websites, and where to find resources in metro Boston.

Cary Aufseeser was on the Board of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston for five years and is now responsible for membership development and special interest groups. He has traveled to Germany and Austria and has written several articles in Mass-Pocha on his family research. When Cary first started researching his family in 2002 he didn't even know the names of all of his great-grandparents. Today, through extensive use of the internet, he can trace his roots back to the Middle Ages, and has uncovered thousands of distant relatives all over the world. When not researching his genealogy, he is a statistical analyst and programmer.

Join the Temple Reyim Adult Education Committee

and help plan and organize programs. Contact chair Rick Brunell (rbrunell@rcn.com) or other members, including Joe Weisburd, Carol and David Stollar, Steve Soltoff, Eugene Sheppard, Anita Lichtblau Sheila Clawson, and Leslie Solish.

Religious Services Classes

Torah Leyning:

Introduction – Michael Baker

*Six Sundays starting October 30
10 a.m.*

This course will enable you to learn the cantillation (“trope”). It will also cover background and purpose of trope, ways of learning it, and provide individual coaching of students to chant (leyn) a short Torah reading on Shabbat morning or mincha service. This year’s course features a completely revised set of trope-learning exercises, in very large print. Useful reference handouts will be provided, as well as recordings in the student’s choice of emailed sound files or CD. As an incentive to sign up early, those who register at least a week in advance will receive their recordings on or prior to the first class session. The prerequisite for this class is the ability to read Hebrew. Contact Mike Baker, aimeepb@verizon.net, to register or for more information.

Haftarah Trope – Michele Koppelman

*Sundays starting November 6
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.*

This course will cover the basic skills needed to chant Haftarah at Shabbat services. Basic Hebrew decoding skills are needed, but musical talent is not required. You will learn how tropes can help explain the meaning of a verse and how they can help you improve your Hebrew pronunciation.

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The goal, if the student wishes, is to prepare a Haftarah to chant at a Shabbat service. Contact Michele Koppelman, pieceful@gmail.com, to register or for more information.

Torah Leyning:

Advanced – Bob Deresiewicz

*Wednesdays, February 15 and 22
7:30 p.m.*

This is a class for congregants who have recent experience leyning Torah and who wish to build upon their existing skills. While we will discuss the mechanics of trope, this is not a class on trope per se, but rather on improving the flow and clarity of one’s reading. We will work on enunciation, phrasing, and pacing with the goal of achieving readings in which each word can be readily understood by the listener. Contact Bob Deresiewicz, bobderes@comcast.net, to register or for more information.

Learning and Leading Shabbat Musaf Service – Rabbi Berman

Spring 2017 dates TBD

We will first study the history, structure and meaning of the Shabbat Musaf service and then learn its traditional “nusach” (musical motif) and melodies. Rabbi Berman will make recordings and work with you individually to learn to lead the service. Please let him know of your interest.



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For the latest information about Limmud Reyim courses,
go to <http://www.reyim.org/index.php/education/adult-learning>