

2017 - 2018 | 5778

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.

Musical Introduction to the High Holidays with Josh Jacobson

Thursday, September 14 • 7:30 p.m.

Our new High Holiday Chazzan, Joshua Jacobson, helps us explore the beauty of the High Holy Day liturgy, sing, learn new melodies, and reflect together on music as an entryway for an uplifting and meaningful holiday experience.

Selichot: Movie, Discussion, and Services

Saturday, September 16 • 8:30 p.m.

Following a viewing of the award-winning Israeli film, *Intimate Grammar* (based on the book by David Grossman), Rabbi Berman leads a discussion of the movie, with Selichot services beginning at about 11 p.m.



Tu B'Shevat: A Communal Seder

Sunday, January 28 • 10 a.m.

Rabbi Berman will lead us in a sweet and savory seder of ancient fruits and grains from the Land of Israel.



Yom Ha Shoah:

Program to Be Announced

Thursday, April 12 • 7:30 p.m.



Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Saturday, May 19 • 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

We have classes for every skill level and interest, and our ongoing classes have developed loyal and devoted followings. This year we are offering a new Hebrew conversation class, especially for beginners, and a new class on the Talmud. Come check us out.

Hebrew Reading for Beginners

*Wednesdays starting
October 18 • 10 a.m.*

This is a great opportunity to learn the basics of Hebrew taught by our own dedicated teacher, Michele Koppleman. The class will first learn the Alef-Bet and to sound out words in Hebrew. Then we will move on to learning basic prayer book Hebrew, including common prayer book vocabulary and simple grammar. Students will need to purchase a textbook for each part (roughly \$18-25 each) and there will be some homework (but no grades!). The class will run 10-12 weeks. Please confirm with Michele that you are interested in taking this class by October 10 so that she will have a textbook for you. (pieceful@gmail.com or 781-956-9811).



Speak Hebrew Reyim!

*Second and fourth Wednesdays of
each month, starting October 25
• 7:30 p.m.*

A new class designed for people who want to learn how to speak modern Hebrew. Students should be able to read (with vowels) and have a desire to practice speaking in a friendly setting. Our teacher will be an experienced Hebrew speaker, with proficiency teaching adults. Join this fun group and start communicating b'ivrit!

Chug Ivrit: Hebrew Conversation Group

*Second and fourth Wednesdays
of each month, starting October 25
• 7:30 p.m.*

By now you may have heard about The Chug. It is a continuing conversational Hebrew group for more experienced Hebrew speakers. The class is guided by Aya Schlair, a native Israeli and an experienced and patient teacher. Students 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.

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Biblical Hebrew

Second and fourth Mondays of each month, starting September 11

• 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, starting November 9

• 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.

Talmud & Today

Every other Tuesday of each month starting November 7

• 7:30 p.m.

A new class offered by Rabbi Berman to study the Talmudic tractate of Brachot (prayer/blessings). We will study fascinating passages from the Talmud, exploring how these ancient conversations continue to hold deep meaning for us. We will be studying slowly and in-depth, looking closely at the Hebrew and Aramaic and learning how the original language of Talmud works to help us understand content and meaning.

Everyone is welcome at this class. Join us for a “Taste of Talmud” on November 7.



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 on Sunday mornings. We are thrilled to bring to Temple Reyim many prominent scholars 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.

Art Green:

Neo-Hasidism – Judaism’s Path to Living Spiritually and Meaningfully in the Contemporary World

Sunday, November 12 • 10 a.m.



Rabbi Art Green, one of the most important theologians and authors of our time, returns to Temple Reyim to share his personal path that brought him to Neo-Hasidism. He will help us understand the essential theology and philosophy of Neo-Hasidism, and what it offers to help us live fully engaged and meaningful religious and spiritual lives. This is a unique opportunity to learn with Rabbi

Green, Founder and Rector of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. A short essay by Rabbi Green will be available to read ahead of this class.

Reyim Community Beit Midrash

- Rabbi Art Green • November 12
- Professor Peter Machinist • December 10
- Professor Jeff Shoulson • January 21
- Professor Rachel Adelman • February 4
- Professor ChaeRan Freeze • April 15



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Peter Machinist:

The Hebrew Bible and Myth

Sunday, December 10 • 10 a.m.

There is a widespread suspicion about the word “myth”: that it is a word which describes something or a facet of someone that is untrue. In part because of this suspicion, “myth” has often been kept away from any discussion of the Bible. The two words, say those who share this view, are opposed at all levels; to associate them, therefore, is not only wrong, but dangerous, because it would distort and debase what the Bible is and what it seeks to teach. In the present talk, Professor Machinist will try to make the counter-argument, namely, that “myth” can be associated with the Bible; that, indeed, it is a helpful term and concept in understanding the Bible; and that in doing so, “myth” turns out not always to be something that is untrue.



Peter Machinist is the Hancock Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages at Harvard Divinity School. 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. Among his many honors, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich. Peter and his wife Alice are members of Temple Reyim.

Jeffrey Shoulson:

Not Your Hebrew School Bible – Sex, Lies, and Love in the Torah

Sunday, January 21 • 10 a.m.

Racier than most soap operas, more shocking than the tabloids, the Bible is filled with stories that usually get left out from grade school education. This talk will explore some of those stories your teachers might have skipped, as we try to understand how biblical narrative grapples with the real life questions of sex, desire, and betrayal.



Jeffrey Shoulson is Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Initiatives and the Doris and Simon Konover Chair

in Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut, where he is also Professor of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. He is a scholar of early modern literature and culture with a particular focus on Jewish-Christian encounters. Among his books and numerous articles is the prize-winning *Milton and the Rabbis: Hebraism, Hellenism, and Christianity* (2001). He and his wife, Dr. Margery Sokoloff, and their three children live in Newton where they are members of the Newton Centre Minyan.



Rachel Adelman:

Redeeming the King? The Role of David's Wives in the Making of the Messianic Dynasty

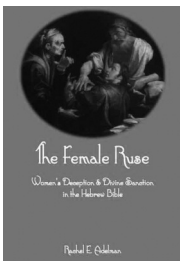
Sunday, February 4 • 10 a.m.



Rachel Adelman is Assistant Professor of Bible at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. She provides a dynamic, open

approach to text study, drawing on a wide range of sources, from Tanakh and classical midrash to modern Israeli poetry.

Her most recent book, on which her talk is based, is *The Female Ruse: Women's Deception and Divine Sanction in the Hebrew Bible*. The book draws on classic rabbinic sources and modern literary interpretation to demonstrate that women are at the crux of conflict over lineage versus family alliances. From Eve to Esther, the Bible is replete with gendered tales of trickery. In many cases, the female ruse has divine sanction: God colludes with the feminine agents to advance the providential plan.



ChaeRan Freeze:

Everyday Jewish Life in the Pale of Settlement

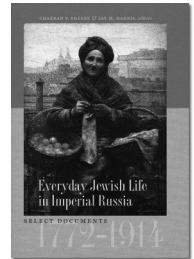
Sunday, April 15 • 10 a.m.



ChaeRan Freeze is Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and Women's, Gender

and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She has focused her research on the history and culture of the Jews in Russia, Jewish family history, and women's and gender studies. Professor Freeze's articles have appeared in a variety of academic journals and edited collections.

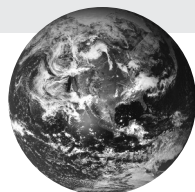
Her first book was *Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia*, which examines the impact of modernization on Jewish family practices and patterns in Imperial Russia based on newly-declassified archival materials from the former Soviet Union. Her most recent book, *Everyday Jewish Life in Imperial Russia, 1825-1914:*



Select Documents (coauthored with Jay Harris), documents the “everyday” as a site of interaction with modernity where Jews confronted the unfamiliar, and negotiated their environment in strategic and creative ways.

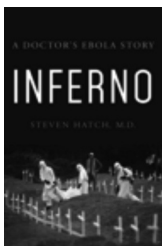
Friday Night Limmud: Temple Reyim Members Around the World

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 in a Jewish community outside the United States or doing chesed around the globe. 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. Please contact Rick Brunell if you would like to give a talk or "nominate" another congregant.



Steven Hatch: *Inferno* – A Doctor's Ebola Story

Date to be determined



Steve Hatch will discuss his recent book, *Inferno – A Doctor's Ebola Story*, which is an account of his work in Liberia during the Ebola crisis. Steve is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, specializing in infectious disease and immunology. In 2013-2014, he lived and worked in Liberia as one of the few Western doctors fighting the Ebola epidemic. His work in Liberia was featured in

The New York Times, *The Boston Globe*, *NPR*, *60 Minutes*, and elsewhere. This is a unique opportunity to hear Steve talk about his intense book and experience.



Kallah with William Miles – African-Jewish Communities and Encounters

Friday, March 16 – Sunday, March 18

This year's scholar in residence, Professor William Miles, will be lecturing about his fascinating work on Jewish communities in Africa. In his Friday night talk, **A Jewish Indiana Jones: The Rabbi of Timbuktu**, he will tell the extraordinary life story of Rabbi Mardochee Aby Serour, a North African caravan leader, undercover explorer, merchant extraordinaire, and Hebrew teacher. After the destruction of the largest Jewish community of the Sahara, he was the first Jew to return to establish residence in the fabled city of Timbuktu. Professor Miles will not only relate the rabbi's story, which he came upon by sheer chance, but will share his own experience tracking down the rabbi's home-cum-synagogue in today's Mali.



On Shabbat, Professor Miles's lecture is entitled **From Sinai to Sahara: What Jews and Muslims Share**. Although he well knew the Torah's account of our ancestors' life crossing the Sinai Desert, it was only after graduating college, when he went to live for two years on the edge of the Sahara, that he began to realize how much we Jews share with followers of Islam in that other desert. In the intervening decades, he has had many exchanges about Judaism with Black African Muslim friends curious to know about a people they know only from the Qur'an.

On Sunday morning Professor Miles will offer a multimedia presentation on **New Jewish Communities in Africa**. Over the last three decades, new Jewish communities have been emerging throughout sub-Saharan Africa. In this presentation with original photos and video clips, Professor Miles will share his fieldwork among the Igbo Jews of Nigeria and the Malagasy Jews of Madagascar.



Professor William (Bill) Miles has been teaching political science at Northeastern University since 1984. He is also former Stotsky Professor of Jewish Historical and Cultural Studies there. Two of his twelve books have been National Jewish Book Award finalists: Zion in the Desert: American Jews in Israel's Reform Kibbutzim and Jews of Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey. A former Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa, Professor Miles is also past winner of the National Bible Contest for North America. He and his wife Loiza and daughter Arielle are members of Temple Emanu-El, the Conservative synagogue of Providence, Rhode Island.

Special Programs



Ask an MK

Sunday, November 5 • 10 a.m.

LimmudBoston and Temple Reyim are teaming up for “Ask an MK,” an opportunity to hear and question members of the Israeli Knesset by video. Rabbi Berman will lead the conversation. Watch for more information.

LimmudBoston Concert at Temple Reyim: Light Up The Night with Julie Silver & Friends



Saturday, December 2

LimmudBoston at Temple Reyim

Sunday, December 3 • All Day

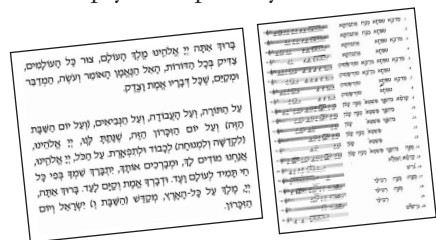
We are pleased to host the eighth annual LimmudBoston this year. What is it? It’s a “happening,” a Jewish learningfest of culture and identity. From storytelling, music and meditation to Torah and Talmud, LimmudBoston offers inspiration and education – engaging beginners and scholars alike. LimmudBoston 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.

Religious Services Classes

Haftarah Trope – Michele Koppelman

Wednesdays starting October 18 • 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. 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.





*Professors Jackie Vayntrub, Eugene Sheppard,
and Peter Machinist at 2016 Beit Midrash*

Join the Temple Reyim Adult Learning Committee

or the Kallah Committee (or both!) and help plan and organize programs.

Contact Limmud chair Rick Brunell (rbrunell@rcn.com) or Kallah chair

Joel Bloom (jbloomesq@verizon.net), or other members, including Carol and

David Stollar, Joe Weisburd, Steve Soltoff, Eugene Sheppard, Anita Lichtblau,

Sheila Clawson, Sheree Boloker, Bryon Rakoff, Harvey and Sara Berman,

Jay Prizant, Richard Klein, and Joan Listernick.

Temple Reyim

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For the latest information about Limmud Reyim courses and events,
go to <http://www.reyim.org/limmud.html>



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