

2018 - 2019 | 5779

Limmud Reyim

Adult Learning Program

לימוד רעים

Temple Reyim
Newton, Massachusetts

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



Holiday Learning Programs

Holidays and festivals are an important part of the life cycle of the Jewish community. This year, we will offer the following adult learning holiday programs:

Selichot: Music and Services

Saturday, September 1 • 9:00 p.m.

Our High Holiday *Chazzan*, Josh Jacobson, along with Cantor Lynn Torgove, will perform musical selections with piano accompaniment. Rabbi Berman will conduct a discussion on the meaning of the prayers and music of *Selichot*. Service to follow at 11:00 pm.

Yom Ha Shoah

Wednesday, May 1 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we come together as a community to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. Program details will be announced.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Saturday, June 8 • 8:00 p.m.

Following our mystical tradition, our *Tikkun Leyn Shavuot* will explore different approaches to what “Torah” means. Join us as we celebrate the giving of Torah with a special presentation by Reyim member and Harvard Divinity School post-doctoral fellow, Joan Listernick. Coffee, tea, and dairy delicacies will be served.



Hebrew Classes

We have classes for every skill level and interest, and our ongoing classes have developed loyal and devoted followings. Come check us out.

Hebrew Decoding for Beginners

Wednesdays, beginning October 10 • 10:00 a.m.

This is a great opportunity to learn how to read and pronounce Hebrew text taught by our own member, Michele Koppelman. The class will first learn the Alef-Bet and sound out words in Hebrew. Students will purchase a textbook “Aleph isn’t Tough” (roughly \$18-20) and there will be some homework (but no grades!). The class will run for 10 sessions. Please confirm with Michele that you are interested in taking this class by September 28 and whether you need her to get you a textbook. You can contact Michele at pieciful@gmail.com.

Speak Hebrew Reyim!

*Second and fourth Wednesdays
of each month, starting
October 10 • 7:45 p.m.*

Taught by Keshet teacher, Ora Tuval, who is a native Hebrew speaker with proficiency at teaching adults. Students should be able to read Hebrew and have a desire to practice speaking in a friendly setting. Join this fun group and start communicating *b'ivrit!*

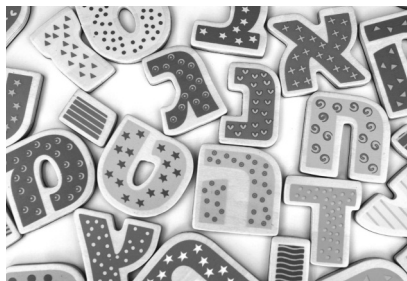
Contact Vitaly Zakuta at Vitaly.Zakuta@gmail.com for more information.

Intermediate Prayer Book Hebrew

*Wednesdays, beginning
October 10 • 11:15 a.m.*

This class is for individuals who can decode Hebrew and wish to learn a bit of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary to gain better understanding of the *Siddur*.

We will use the textbook “Bet is for Bereshit.” Please confirm with instructor, Michele Koppelman, that you are interested in taking this class by September 28 and whether you need her to get you a textbook. You can contact Michele at pieceful@gmail.com or 781-956-9811.



Chug Ivrit: Hebrew Conversation Group

*Second and fourth Wednesdays
of each month, starting
September 26 • 7:30 p.m.*

This *chug* is a continuing conversational Hebrew group for more experienced Hebrew speakers. The class is guided by Aya Schlair, a native Israeli and experienced and patient teacher. Students gain confidence and skill in hearing and speaking Hebrew by sharing in conversations about recent experiences such as family events, work, travels, movies, books, or other topics of interest. Contact David Stollar at David.Stollar@tufts.edu for more information.

Biblical Hebrew

*Second and fourth Mondays
of each month, starting
October 8 • 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 Biblical text, vocabulary and grammar. Participants need to be able to read Hebrew; prior knowledge of Modern Hebrew is helpful but not required. Contact Joe Weisburd at jfweisb@yahoo.com for more information.

Jewish Text, Thought & Theology Classes

Torah Study with Rabbi Berman

First and third Thursdays of each month, starting October 4 • 12:30 p.m.

Interested in seeing what happens to the *b'nei Yisrael* when they enter the Land of Israel? Join our Torah study group as we read the Book of Joshua. This is a great opportunity to become more familiar with the books included in *Nevi'im* (Prophets). Guided by Rabbi Berman, we do a careful reading of the text in English, delving into the Hebrew to enhance the meaning. The text is provided. There is plenty of time for discussion. All are welcome. Contact Carol Stollar at carolstollar@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up.

Jewish Theology After the Shoah with Rabbi Berman

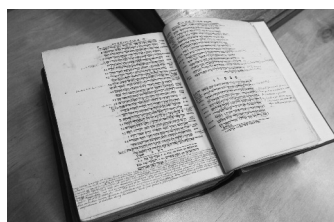
Every other Tuesday of the month, November 6 through January 29 at 7:30 p.m. (6-7 classes)

The *Shoah* was an irreparable fracture in Jewish thought and theology, forcing the Jewish – and global – community to ask the most foundational questions about God. We will look at the writings of Jewish theologians who have struggled to maintain faith and articulate God's presence after the *Shoah*. We will discuss subjects such as religious meaning of history, the hiddenness of God, and the inherent challenge in trying to discern meaning in our lives.

Inspiring Texts of The Talmud with Rabbi Berman

Every other Tuesday of the month, March 5 through May 28 • 7:30 p.m. (7-8 classes)

We will study fascinating passages from the Talmud, exploring how these ancient conversations continue to hold deep meaning for us today. We will be studying slowly and in-depth, looking closely at the Hebrew and Aramaic and learning how the original language helps us understand content and meaning. Contact Carol Stollar at CarolStollar@hotmail.com for more information.



Studying the Tanakh

Evenings during June, July and August, times to be determined

Join fellow congregants to explore books in the *Tanakh* that are rarely read in full. In the past, the group has studied Isaiah and Ezra-Nehemiah. Books that highlight various commentators are used to deepen our understanding. Contact Vitaly Zakuta (vitaly.zakuta@gmail.com) to register.

Special Guest Lecture

Arnold Eisen

Sunday, October 28 • 10:00 a.m.

Arnold M. Eisen, one of the world's foremost authorities on American Judaism, is the seventh chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary. Since taking office in 2007, Chancellor Eisen has transformed the education of religious, pedagogical, professional, and lay leaders for



North American Jewry, with a focus on graduating highly skilled, innovative leaders who bring Judaism alive in ways that speak authentically to Jews at a time of rapid and far-reaching change. During his tenure, Chancellor Eisen has placed significant emphasis on strengthening Jewish learning in our communities. His initiatives include the new Block/Kolker Center for Spiritual Arts; programs to strengthen early childhood, experiential, adult,

and Israel education; the Arts Initiative; the interfaith Center for Pastoral Education; and the Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue. Before coming to JTS, Chancellor Eisen served on the faculties of Stanford, Tel Aviv, and Columbia universities. An award-winning writer and advocate for the Jewish community, Chancellor Eisen's many publications include *Rethinking Modern Judaism* and *Conservative Judaism Today and Tomorrow*, a collection of personal essays that explore essential matters of Jewish belief and practice from a Conservative perspective. He received a BA from University of Pennsylvania, a BPhil from Oxford University, and a PhD from Hebrew University.



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 on Sunday mornings, about once a month. We are thrilled to bring 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 text, history, law, ethics and spirituality.

Judith Kates:

The Magic of Midrash: How the Ancient Rabbinic Playful, Creative Imagination Came to Define Jewish Theology and Thought

Sunday, October 14 • 10 a.m.



This *shiur* will consider how our *midrashic* tradition interprets, imagines and develops the Biblical stories of Sarah and Hagar, which we read on Rosh Hashanah, to give us new ways of understanding the inner spiritual lives of our Biblical foremothers.

Professor Kates, a member of the Hebrew College faculty since 1992, comes to the teaching of Tanakh and Midrash from the study of literature. She holds a doctorate in comparative literature from Harvard University, where she also taught and developed a lifelong interest in women's studies and has undertaken an in-depth study of Jewish source materials. She has edited, with Gail Twersky Reimer, *Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story* and *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holy Days*.

Alan Verskin:

Grappling with Expressions of Anger in Jewish Liturgy

Sunday, December 16 • 10 a.m.

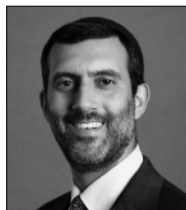


Professor Verskin is an assistant professor of history at the University of Rhode Island. He holds an MA and PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University and an MA from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has taught at Macalester College and Columbia University. His academic work ranges in topic from medieval Spain to nineteenth-century Yemen, and from Islamic law to Jewish philosophy. He is an avid translator of Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, and Hebrew. Professor Verskin's books include *Oppressed in the Land; A Vision of Yemen; and Islamic Law and the Crisis or Reconquista*.

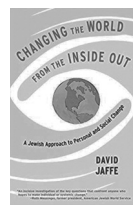
David Jaffe:

A Jewish Approach to Personal and Social Change

Sunday, January 6 • 10 a.m.



Rabbi Jaffe is a writer, rabbi and spiritual seeker. His first book, *Changing the World from the Inside Out*, explores how to walk a holy path that integrates deep spiritual wisdom with the daily work of peacemaking and social change. Rabbi Jaffe served as the Director of Social Justice Programs at the Jewish Community



Relations Council of Greater Boston, as a founding board member of Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps, and as the Spiritual Advisor at Gann Academy. He is the Founder and Principal of the Kirva Institute, where he teaches applied Jewish wisdom including *Mussar* and *Tikkun Middot*. He is also a Dorot Fellow, member of the AJWS Global Justice Fellowship, and charter member of the International Rabbinic Fellowship. Rabbi Jaffe received his rabbinic ordination from the Bat Ayin Yeshiva in Israel and has a BA in History from Cornell University, an MA in Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary and an MA in Social Work from Columbia University.

Eugene Sheppard:

Why the State of Israel Has No Written Constitution

Sunday, January 20 • 10 a.m.



Professor Sheppard is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought at Brandeis University as well as Director of its 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. Most recently he has taught *World Without God: Theories of Secularization*; and *Modern Jewish Philosophy*. He earned a BA from Occidental College and an MA and PhD from UCLA. Professor Sheppard is the author of *Leo Strauss and the Politics of Exile*.



Lori Hope Lefkovitz:

The Biblical Story of Joseph in Judaism and Islam

Sunday, February 3 • 10 a.m.



Professor Lefkovitz is the Ruderman Professor and Director of the Jewish Studies Program and Director of the Humanities Center at Northeastern University. Her awards include a Fulbright professorship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an academic fellowship at the Philadelphia Association for Psychoanalysis,

a Woodrow Wilson dissertation fellowship, and a Golda Meir post-doctoral fellowship at Hebrew University. She was the founding director of Kolot, the Center for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where she held a chair in Gender and Judaism. Professor Lefkovitz holds a BA from Brandeis University and an MA and PhD from Brown University. Her books include: *Shaping Losses: Cultural Memory and the Holocaust* (with Julia Epstein), *Textual Bodies: Changing Boundaries of Literary Representation*, *The Character of Beauty in the Victorian Novel*, and *In Scripture: The First Stories of Jewish Sexual Identity*.



Simon Rabinovitch:

The Russian Revolution and the Jews: Moscow or Jerusalem?

Sunday, March 3 • 10 a.m.



Professor Rabinovitch teaches modern Jewish and European history. His published articles examine Jewish politics in revolutionary Russia, Jewish nationalist thought, and Jewish folkloristics and ethnography. He is currently editing two anthologies of Jewish thought and politics: *Diaspora Nationalism in Modern Jewish Thought* and *Modern Jewish Politics: Ideologies,*

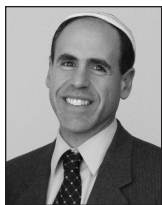
Identities, and the Jewish Question. Professor Rabinovitch is also working on a monograph examining Jewish autonomy in late imperial and revolutionary Russia. He received his BA from McGill University and his MA and PhD from Brandeis University.





A Comparative Study of Jewish and American Law

Sunday, March 24 • 10 a.m.



Judaism is founded on a system of *mitzvot* – religious “obligations.” American legal jurisprudence is rooted in individual “rights.” How do these systems compare and collide? We will look at the work of Professor of Law Robert Cover to explore legal decisions in *halacha* and American law.

Kallah 50th Anniversary

Susannah Heschel

Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7



Susannah Heschel is the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish-Christian relations in Germany during the 19th and 20th centuries, the history of biblical scholarship, and the history of anti-Semitism. Her numerous publications include *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus* (University of Chicago Press), which won a National Jewish Book

Award, and *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany* (Princeton University Press). She has also taught at Southern Methodist University and Case Western Reserve University.

Heschel has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Frankfurt and Cape Town as well as Princeton, and she is the recipient of numerous grants, including from the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Foundation, and a yearlong Rockefeller fellowship at the National Humanities Center. In 2011-12 she held a fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. She has received four honorary doctorates from universities in the United States, Canada, and Germany. Currently she is a Guggenheim Fellow and is writing a book on the history of European Jewish scholarship on Islam. In 2015 she was elected a member of the American Society for the Study of Religion.

The author of over one hundred articles, she has also edited several books, including *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays of Abraham Joshua Heschel*; *Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust* (with Robert P. Ericksen); *Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism* (with David Biale and Michael Galchinsky). She serves on the academic advisory council of the Center for Jewish Studies in Berlin and on the Board of Trustees of Trinity College.

LimmudBoston at Temple Reyim

Sunday, December 2 • All Day

We are pleased to host the ninth annual LimmudBoston this year. LimmudBoston is 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

Chanting the Festival Megillot

This course, taught by Michele Koppelman, will cover the basic skills needed to chant the scrolls of Koheleth, Shir HaShirim, and Ruth. Basic Hebrew decoding skills are needed, but musical talent is not required. The schedule for this class will be set at the convenience of the students. Contact Michele at pieceful@gmail.com or 781-956-9811 to make arrangements.



Beit Midrash Speakers

Professor Judith Kates • October 14
Professor Alan Vershkin • December 16
Rabbi David Jaffe • January 6
Professor Eugene Sheppard • January 20
Professor Lori Hope Lefkovitz • February 3
Professor Simon Rabinovitch • March 3
Rabbi Daniel Berman • March 24



Rabbi Berman leads Reyim members in study.

Join the Temple Reyim Adult Learning Committee

to help plan and organize programs. Contact Limmud Chair, Joel Bloom (jbloomesq@verizon.net), to volunteer, offer suggestions, or provide feedback.

Temple Reyim
1860 Washington Street • Newton, MA 02466
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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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