

## **"Jewish Intellectual History, 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> Centuries"**

The Lifelong Learning Committee is sponsoring a new eight-week course, based on a DVD series of twenty-four lectures produced by The Teaching Company, titled "*Jewish Intellectual History, 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*" and taught by Professor David Ruderman. The course is primarily about Jewish identity and looks specifically at the social and cultural world of Jews and their intellectual responses to modernity. The cost will be just enough to cover the expense of running the facility, \$20 per person for the entire 8-week series. If the course is deemed a success, we will follow up with the remaining 16 lectures next Fall and Spring, making 24 lectures in all.

**Session Dates: Tuesday evenings**

April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 25; June 1

**Location: Temple Sinai**

7:45pm – 9:00pm

**Cost:** \$20

**RSVP by March 15, 2010**

to Patti Kahn at [patti@templesinainj.org](mailto:patti@templesinainj.org) or (908) 273-3617

Lecture Content -- The entire course consists of twenty-four 45-minute lectures, recorded by Professor Ruderman for The Teaching Company. The lectures are on DVD, so we will have no real interaction with the professor, and will have to rely more on interaction among the participants in the form of discussion. Malcolm Schwartz, a member of the Lifelong Learning Committee, has agreed to be the moderator; he will raise some questions for discussion, and facilitate the discussion. Participants will be encouraged to do some research for classes of particular interest to them, and to assist in those discussions. To help with this, we will distribute, prior to each session, the transcripts of the lectures. We will, in addition, suggest one book for each 8-week series, in advance of the series.

The content of the first 8-week series is:

The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries -- Background and Perspective

1. On studying Jewish History
2. Defining Modern Jewish History and Thought
3. Cultural Transformation in the Italian Ghetto
4. Seventeenth-Century Marranism and Messianism
5. The Challenge of Baruch Spinoza
6. Moses Mendelssohn and His Generation
7. The Science of Judaism
8. Henrich Graetz -- Jewish Historian

Professor Ruderman was educated at CCNY, JTS and Columbia. He received his rabbinical degree from HUC-JIR, and his PhD in Jewish History from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and Director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, U of Penn. Previously, he had taught at Yale and at U of Maryland. He is widely published, and has been on the Board of the CCAR, among others.