

TEMPLE SINAI LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING FALL 2006/5767

Rabbi Gershon's Friday Morning Courses 10:30am -12:00 noon

Reform Judaism: Past, Present, Future October 20 and October 27

When, where, and why did Reform Judaism come into existence? We will explore the significant changes in Jewish belief and practice established by Reform and Reform's current statement of principles. What are the enduring contributions of Reform to the history of Judaism? What is our role in shaping the future of the Reform Movement?

The Role of Commandments in Liberal Judaism November 3 and November 17

What are the 613 traditional commandments and how are they categorized? We will explore both traditional and contemporary rationales for the observance of the commandments. What can the concept of "mitzvah" (commandment) mean for us today?

Jewish Values to Live By December 1 and December 8

What are the core ethical imperatives of Judaism? We will learn the fundamental principles of Jewish ethics and explore how they relate to some of today's most pressing issues.

How to Develop a Meaningful Jewish Prayer Life January 12 and January 19

What are the barriers to prayer? Why pray anyway? We will learn the unique features of Jewish prayer, the structure of the Jewish prayer service, and explore both traditional and contemporary teachings about the purposes of prayer.

Rabbi Gershon's Fall Teachings

September 8, 8pm

How to Live Your Life Without Regret

September 15, 6:30pm

It's Time to Prepare Your Heart for the High Holy Days

September 16, 9pm

What is the Legacy You've Been Given? What is the Legacy You Wish to Pass Along?

October 6, 7pm

The Meaning of the Festival of Booths for Moderns

October 13, 8:15am

Death Can Never End a Relationship

October 20, 6:30pm

Core Principles of Jewish Ethics

October 27, 8pm

How to Find Meaning in Prayer

November 3, 6:30pm

How You Can Get Something Out of Prayer Services Without Knowing Hebrew

November 17, 6:30pm

What Jewish Spirituality Teaches about Afterlife

November 24, 8pm

The Purpose of the 613 Commandments

December 1, 6:30pm

Let's Put Back "Chanukkah" into Chanukkah

December 8, 8pm

The True History of Chanukkah

December 22, 8pm

Spiritual Teachings of Chanukkah (at Summit Jewish Community Center)

December 29, 6:30pm

The Enduring Contributions of Reform Judaism

January 5, 6:30pm

Exploring Jewish Prayer: The History of the 'Kaddish' Prayer

January 12, 8pm

Israel on My Mind

January 19, 6:30pm

A Pharaoh Hides Within Us All

January 26, 8pm

The Exodus From Egypt: History or Metaphor?

Henry Dorfman Memorial Scholar in Residence Weekend

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR JEWISH-MUSLIM RELATIONS?

With Dr. Reuven Firestone

Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion

October 20-22, 2006



Dr. Reuven Firestone is Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion and director of its Edgar J. Magnin School for Graduate Studies.

Professor Firestone was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his research on holy war in Judaism and was chosen to be a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to HUC-JIR, Dr. Firestone directed the Hebrew and Arabic language programs at Boston University. Dr. Firestone received his doctorate in Arabic and Islamic Studies from New York University in 1998.

Dr. Firestone's Addresses to the Congregation

Friday, October 20, 8pm

CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY VIEWS OF JEWS AND MUSLIMS TOWARD THE OTHER

How do we see each other? What do the classic texts of Judaism and Islam teach their adherents about the "other?" What do Jewish texts teach about Arabs and Muslims and Islamic texts about Jews? We will examine some of the classic texts, learn how they are interpreted by contemporary believers in both communities, and how these interpretations effect political and personal behaviors.

Saturday, October 21

12 noon, Congregational Shabbat Luncheon 1pm, "FUNDAMENTALIST" AND "LIBERAL" EXPRESSIONS OF ISLAM: WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY SAY ABOUT EACH OTHER, ISRAEL, AND DIALOGUE?

The world contains more than one billion Muslims. Where are they and

what do they say about each other, Israel, and dialogue? We know that not all people are alike, and we hear about fundamentalist Muslims and about liberal or modernist Muslims, about "Islamists," extremists, Sufis, Sunnis, and Shi'as. What do these terms mean and how do they describe and apply to the Muslim world today?

Sunday, October 22

10am, Congregational Brunch 10:45am, WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR JEWISH MUSLIM RELATIONS?

Do current applications and interpretations of the Islamic doctrine of Jihad rule out a positive future for Jewish-Muslim relations? Can Jews and Muslims find common ground regarding the State of Israel? Is peace possible? If so, what might it look like?

LUNCH & LEARN

Join us for thought-provoking discussion and lunch is provided by the Lifelong Jewish Learning Committee

**The Crucible of Justice: The Dreifuss Affair
With Professor Benjamin Nelson
Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Sunday, November 12, 1:15pm**

The electrifying case which split a nation, stunned a continent, and had a profound and extensive impact on world Jewry. Professor Nelson will comment on the context of the Affair, the dramatic characters and clashes it involved, and its short and long term consequences.

Professor Nelson is the author of *Tennessee Williams: The Man and His Work* and *Arthur Miller: Portrait of a Playwright*. Dr. Nelson is the recipient of Fairleigh Dickinson's Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching.

**Islamic Extremists and the Muslim Mainstream
With Professor Christopher Taylor, Drew University
Sunday, December 3, 1:15pm**



Dr. Taylor is Professor of Religion and Islamic Studies at Drew University, and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies. He is also the past director of Drew's Middle East Studies Program. Dr. Taylor earned his B.A. in History from the Johns Hopkins University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton. He has previously served as the Acting Executive Director of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) at the American University in Cairo and on the faculty of Yale University. Dr. Taylor's research focuses broadly on the social history of religion in the Islamic Middle East. He is the author of numerous articles and a recently published book on the veneration of Muslim saints. His current research interests focus on the nature of religious leadership in the modern Muslim world. Dr. Taylor has lived and traveled extensively in various parts of the Middle East. In 1998-99 he served as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Islamicist-in-Residence at the American Research Center in Egypt.

The Basics of Torah Cantillation – Part II

Cantor Merel will continue last year's mini course on Torah cantillation on the following Sunday mornings from 11:15-12:15 am: October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5, November 19, December 3, December 17. Our studies will culminate in the class chanting a Torah portion during a Sharing Shabbat service. If you have had prior cantillation experience, and would like to join this ongoing class, please email Cantor Merel: cantor@templesinainj.org.

SHARE THE WORDS WITH THE SISTERHOOD BOOK GROUP

Come join the Sisterhood Book Group where we discuss a chosen book and share our thoughts. Our meetings will be held at 7:30 pm in the Lounge at Temple Sinai. Our first book is *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* by Ron Suskind, scheduled for discussion on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Additional gatherings of the Sisterhood Book Group are tentatively scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, and Monday, March 26, 2007.

A Hope in the Unseen was chosen for the One Book, One Community project in Summit. The project is sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council, Shaping Summit Together, and the Mayor's Task Force on Diversity. The goal of the project is to have the community read the chosen book and then discuss it in a variety of forums in order to build conversations across cultural, religious, and class lines.

A Hope in the Unseen is the true story of Cedric Jennings, an "A" student at a run-down inner city school in Washington, D.C. The book covers his last two years of high school and his freshman year at Brown University. The book was launched by a series in the Wall Street Journal that won Suskind the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing.

The culmination of the project will be a visit to Summit by Cedric Jennings. He will speak to the community on November 2 at 7 pm at Summit High School.

The books for the later dates will be announced in the Tempo and via email to the Sisterhood membership. If you have any questions, comments, or book suggestions, please contact Nancy Gorman or Sharyn Model at sisterhood_books@templesinainj.org.



"Meditation is always transformation. Meditation always moves us from one place to another; from unconsciousness to awareness, from tension to relaxation, from being scattered to being centered, from a shallow relationship with our environment and ourselves to a deeper one, from sleep to wakefulness, from a sense of God's presence to the sense that God was in this place all along and I didn't know it." (Rabbi Alan Lew)

"Jewish meditation is a spiritual tool that enables a person to experience Judaism in a personal, deeper, and more powerful way." (David Malchman)

Come learn what it's all about as instructor David Malchman from the MetroWest Jewish Health and Healing Center leads a series of seven Jewish meditation sessions at our synagogue

Classes are open to both members and non-temple members and no prior meditation experience is necessary. There is a nominal fee of \$90.00, payable to Temple Sinai, which includes all the sessions. Class participants should wear comfortable clothing and may also choose to bring a pillow or cushion for supporting their back or for sitting on.

**Sunday evenings, 9/17, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, & 11/19
7-8:pm, Temple Sinai Chapel**

CLASSES ARE FILLING UP FAST!

If you are interested in participating, please RSVP by September 12 to office@templesinainj.org or call 908-273-4921.

For more information, contact cantor@templesinainj.org.

MIND-BODY CONNECTION BEGINNER'S YOGA

**5 Wednesdays, October 4 – November 1
9-10:15am**

Based on the Kripalu tradition, come explore postures and breath awareness that can increase your flexibility and strength, while at the the same time creating a space for relaxation of body, mind, and spirit. Come to first class dressed ready to move. Please bring a yoga mat and a small firm blanket.

Teacher: Donna Wortzel, CYT

FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Parallel Jewish learning for parents, along with shared family educational experience, is proven to be a tremendously effective tool toward positive Jewish identity-building. Parallel learning programs also form a bridge for parents and students into the world of life-long learning. Temple Sinai's outstanding "Family Connections" program offers parents of students in grades 4-7 the opportunity to study Judaic subjects during the religious school year. There are great benefits to our adult learners, who study with Rabbi Gershon, Cantor Merel and invited Jewish educators. Supervised, experiential learning with one's child is the special available to participating families.

The Temple Sinai Family Connections program is now in its 6th year, with over 100 adults learning during religious school hours on Sunday. There are three Sunday sessions in the fall semester and three sessions in the winter/spring semester. We provide eye-opening coffee and bagels, along with outstanding instructors in a participatory learning environment.

If you would like to join the Family Connections Program, please contact Patti Kahn, Director of Education.

FALL 2006 SEMESTER COURSES

Grade 4: God, Prayer and Spirituality I: 9/17; 10/29; 12/10

Instructor: Rabbi Gershon

Grade 5: Modern Israel: 9/17; 10/22; 12/3

Instructor: Aaron Liebman

Grade 6: Bible: 9/17; 10/15; 11/5

Instructor: Sandy Schlanger, R.J.E.

Grade 7: Jewish History I: 9/17; 10/29; 11/19

Instructor: Arne Salkin

HEBREW LITERACY

LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 5 EASY LESSONS!

Are you a Hebrew novice? Then this course is for you. Come learn the alef -bet in 5 easy lessons on Monday mornings.

5 Sessions, mid-October – November, 2006

Mondays, 10-11am

Instructor: Loren Hurwitz

There is no fee for this course.

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617

patti@templesinainj.org

HEBREW PRAYER LITERACY and/or READING SKILLS

Do you want to learn to read Hebrew? Do you have reading basics but would like to strengthen your skill foundation to become more fluent? Do you know how to read but want to learn prayer, for fluency and understanding?

Come to our Thursday evening Hebrew "soup to nuts" class, where you can work on your Hebrew goals, from alef-bet to prayer vocabulary, meaning and everything in between.

8 Evening Sessions, mid-October – December

Wednesday, 7-8pm; \$90 plus book fee

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617

patti@templesinainj.org

Temple Sinai Lifelong Learning Film Series

The Temple Film Series combines the opportunities for entertainment, stimulating discussion, personal development, and spiritual growth. The evenings start at 7:00 pm with refreshments and socialization. The presentations begin promptly at 7:30, and are followed with meaningful discussion (and refreshments redux). Guests are invited. If you have not previously attended a program in the film series, this would be a guaranteed great evening to start.

Walk on Water Monday Evening, October 30, 2006, 7pm, Refreshments and Socializing 7:30 Showing

The showing of the film "Walk on Water" promises to make for an extremely interesting evening. This is the first Israeli film that we have shown in the series. It is a multi-faceted film – a combined political thriller, drama, political and moral debate, exploration of character, and travelogue. As with past films in the series, the less revealed about the plot the more you will enjoy it. Let us just say it deals with human elements of the issue of retribution for WWII war crimes. This will lead us into what is certain to be a fascinating (as with past films) discussion, this time on revenge and forgiveness, issues very pertinent to our own lives.

All films will be shown by projection on our new, large screen. Contact Gene or Sondra Helfand (908-464-0351) for further information or transportation assistance.

LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING COMMITTEE

Marvin Chasek

Carolyn Fine

Eric Friedman

Rabbi Stuart W. Gershon

Eugene Helfand

Patti Kahn

Lori Pine

Andrew Polsky

Aaron Rosenberg

Jack Rossen

Thomas Schranck

R Malcolm Schwartz

Lennard Wharton



THIRD FRIDAY NIGHT GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Come to the lecture at 8pm (open to guests)
or come to the service at 6:30pm, or both



Politics and War: Israel and the Middle Eastern Mud
With Professor Ian Lustick
September 15

Ian S. Lustick is the Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Lustick's books include *Trapped in the War on Terror* (2006); *Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews* (2005); *Unsettled States, Disputed Lands:*

Britain and Ireland, France and Algeria, Israel and the West Bank and Gaza (1993); *Right-Sizing the State: The Politics of Moving Borders* (2001); *Arabs in the Jewish State: Israel's Control of a National Minority* (1980); and *For the Land and the Lord: Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel* (1994).

Professor Lustick has received support for his research from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the United States Institute of Peace. He worked in the State Department during the Carter administration on Israeli-Palestinian issues and has been a consultant on national security issues and Middle East affairs for every administration since then. He appears regularly as a commentator on Middle East politics and American foreign policy in the international and national news media.

Classic and Contemporary Views of Jews and Muslims Toward the Other
With Professor Reuven Firestone
October 20

Dr. Firestone is our Henry Dorfman Memorial Scholar in Residence. He is Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dr. Firestone is the author of *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evolution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Exegesis*, *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam*, *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims*, and dozens of articles on Judaism, Islam, and comparative studies between Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Intelligent Design Meets the First Amendment
With Mr. Eric Rothschild
November 17

Eric Rothschild, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, was lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the landmark "intelligent design" case of *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* that was decided by Federal District Judge John E. Jones, III in Pennsylvania in December 2005. Pepper, along with lawyers from the ACLU of Pennsylvania and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, successfully represented eight families who challenged the Dover policy that included intelligent design in the curriculum. Judge Jones found that intelligent design is a religious, non-scientific proposition, and that teaching intelligent design in public schools violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Mr. Rothschild will share the factual and legal background of the *Kitzmiller* case, and discuss whether intelligent design is science or religion, why the teaching of the scientific theory of evolution continues to generate controversy, and how the controversy implicates important issues of religious freedom. The *Kitzmiller* case is being touted as the first legal test of the constitutionality of teaching intelligent design as science, and the most significant case on religious issues in public school science classes since 1987, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the teaching of creation science.

Global Warming: The Latest Scientific Findings and Trends
With Dr. Stuart Gaffin
January 19

Stuart Gaffin is an Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University. Prior to joining Columbia in 2001, he was a senior scientist in the Atmosphere Program at the Environmental Defense Fund, NYC from 1989. His Ph.D. was in Atmospheric and Paleoclimate Studies from the former Earth Systems Group at New York University. Dr. Gaffin taught the first course offered by Columbia University on green roofs in Spring 2005. He was a lead author on the 2001 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set of emissions scenarios, known as the "SRES" scenarios. He is the author of many peer reviewed journal articles, and has participated in numerous media and public forums on global change science and policy.

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208 Summit Avenue
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