



TEMPLE
SINAI

TEMPLE SINAI LIFELONG LEARNING FALL 2007/5768

Rabbi Gershon's Fall Teachings

September 7
The Tipping Point

September 14
On the New Year and
Being a Year Older

September 26
Why the Festival of Sukkot Is
Not Just for Kids

September 28
Why Can't We See
God's Face?

October 3
Why My Teacher Bowed
When the Torah Scroll
Passed By

October 5
The Revolutionary Principles
Behind the Bible's Story
of Creation

October 12
What Does it Mean to
"Walk with God?"

November 2
What Jewish Spirituality
Teaches about the Afterlife

November 23
Facing our Fears with
Courage

November 30
How to Find New
Meaning in Prayer

December 14
The True Story of
Chanukkah

January 4
A New Name for God

January 11
The Pharaoh Who Lives
within Us All

January 25
The Purposes of the
613 Commandments

Religious Literacy: Our Newest Civic Responsibility

*How do we become more religiously literate?
Where do we start? In this New Year of 5768, I
would like to see more members of this Temple
Sinai make a commitment to study Torah -- to
actually read the Bible! How can we engage in
interfaith dialogue or the public policy debates
of our day, without knowing what the Bible
contributes to those conversations? As the
people of the Book, how can we not know the
Book our ancestors gave to Western civilization?*

— from Rabbi Gershon's sermon
to the congregation

Erev Rosh Hashanah, September 12, 2007

Henry Dorfman Memorial Scholar in Residence Weekend

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

WITH DR. DAVID SPERLING

Professor of Bible • Hebrew Union College • Jewish Institute of Religion

October 26-28

DR. SPERLING'S ADDRESSES TO THE CONGREGATION

Friday, October 26, 8:15pm
"The Bible and Ancient Politics"
(Preceded by Oneg Shabbat
7:45pm)

Saturday, October 27, 1:30pm
"Is the Bible Historical?"
(Preceded by 1:00pm
Congregational Shabbat Lunch)

Sunday, October 28, 10:30am
"When Did God Become
'Jewish'?"
(Preceded by 10:00am
Congregational Brunch)



Dr. David Sperling earned the BA at Brooklyn College, was ordained at Jewish Theological Seminary, and is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Semitic Languages from Columbia University, and serves as Professor

of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Before coming to HUC Dr. Sperling taught at SUNY-Stony Brook and then at Barnard College. He has served as visiting professor at New York University, Syracuse University, The College of William and Mary, and Jewish Theological Seminary. Among his scholarly interests are the Religion of Ancient Israel, the history of modern Jewish biblical scholarship and comparative Semitic languages. Among his publications are the books, *Students of the Covenant* (a history of modern Jewish biblical scholarship in America) and *The Original Torah: The Political Intent*

of the Bible's Writers. He was the editor of the Bible division of the revised *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (2007) to which he contributed more than 140 articles. Dr. Sperling also served as consulting editor to *The Haftarah Commentary* by Rabbi Gunther Plaut and the late Rabbi Chaim Stern, as well as to the new *URJ Torah Commentary*. His current project is "A New Handbook of Aramaic and its Dialects" to which he is a contributor and editor-in-chief. Dr. Sperling is married to Rabbi Jennifer Jaech, senior Rabbi of Temple Israel of Northern Westchester.

The Civil War of Ideas within Islam

HUSAIN HAQQANI • TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

Coffee at 7:30pm, Forum at 8:00pm

Lecture sponsored by The American Jewish Committee and Interweave



Husain Haqqani, currently Associate Professor of International Relations at Boston University and Director of its Center for International Relations, has been a journalist, diplomat, and advisor to three Pakistani Prime Ministers. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Ambassador Haqqani acquired traditional Islamic learning as well as a modern education in International Relations. As a journalist, he has written on Muslims in China and East Asia and Islamic political movements and covered the war in Afghanistan. Ambassador Haqqani also has a distinguished career in government. He served as an advisor to Pakistani Prime Ministers Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Nawaz Sharif, and Benazir Bhutto. From 1992 to 1993 he was Pakistan's ambassador to Sri Lanka. His writings have appeared in leading publications worldwide and he regularly comments on Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Islamic politics and extremism on for several television networks. His book, *Pakistan Between Mosque and Military*, was published early in 2005.



Sunday Evenings

For dates and specific time, please contact Cantor Merel at Cantor@TempleSinaiNJ.org or (908) 273-4921, ext. 13.

"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 six 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 fee of \$72.00, 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 on which to sit.

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.

Central Station

Tuesday Evening • October 9

7:00 pm Refreshments and Socializing • 7:30 Showing

Central Station is a Brazilian film (with titles) that was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award for 1998, and won the Golden Globe Award in that category (and many other prizes). The star, Fernanda Montenegro, was nominated for Best Actress in a Lead Role by both groups, so this is a performance you will enjoy. Also amazing is the acting of Vinicius Oliveira, discovered for the role while working as a shoeshine boy. There have been three outstanding films in recent years that deal, in quite different ways, with a similar theme – the growth of the characters that results from the relationship between an adult and a child. Two we have already shown, *King of Masks* and *Tsotsi*, and the third is *Central Station*. After the showing we will exchange views on some of the issues raised by the film that differ from previous discussions, in particular altruism and gemilut hasadim, "acts of loving-kindness."

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

The films for the spring of 2008 have not yet been scheduled.

The Basics of Torah Cantillation Part IV

Cantor Merel will continue last year's mini course on Torah Cantillation. These classes usually meet on Sunday mornings from 11:15 -12:00.

If you have prior cantillation experience, and would like to join this on-going class, please contact Cantor Merel at Cantor@TempleSinaiNJ.org for specific dates and times, and for any additional information.

LUNCH & LEARN

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

**The Natural History of the Bible:
An Environmental Exploration of the Hebrew Scriptures
Sunday, October 14, 1:15pm
With Professor Daniel Hillel
Senior Research Scientist Center for Climate Systems
Research, Columbia University
Visiting Lecturer at the University of Bonn**

Born in California, Daniel Hillel was taken at an early age to Palestine (later to become Israel), where he spent part of his childhood in a pioneering settlement and where he acquired an abiding love of the land and a commitment to protecting the natural environment. He obtained a B.S. degree in agronomy at the University of Georgia, M.S. in soil science at Rutgers University, Ph.D. in ecology and soil physics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California. In Israel, he served as Professor and Head of Soil and Water Sciences at the Hebrew University and helped to develop innovative methods for efficient utilization of limited soil and water resources. Later he served as professor of soil physics, hydrology, and environmental sciences at several leading universities in the U.S. and abroad. He has been a consultant on agricultural development and environmental protection to the World Bank and to several agencies of the U.N. (the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency) and has worked in over 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Australia. The results of his research have been published in some 300 scientific papers and research reports. Dr. Hillel has authored or edited over twenty definitive books, several of which have been translated and published in various languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the recently published (2005) four-volume Encyclopedia of Soils in the Environment. Among the honors he has received are the Guggenheim Award, citations by the American Association of University Publishers, and several honorary doctorates. He has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, and Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy; and he was granted the Distinguished Service Award by the latter societies.



**Christians and Jews
During the Holocaust:
Reflections of a Hidden Child
December 9, 2007
With Susan S. Lederman, Ph.D.**

Susan Lederman is a Professor of Public Administration at Kean University, where she has served as Director of Kean's Master of Public Administration Program and as the founding Executive Director of the Gateway Institute for Regional Development. She has been on the faculty at the University since 1977.

Dr. Lederman is also a past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (1990 – 1992) and served as the president of the New Jersey League of Women Voters. She holds leadership positions in various civic organizations and is serving or has served on several state commissions. She is a past president of Temple Sinai. (1993-1994).

Dr. Lederman holds leadership positions in various civic organizations, notably, on the executive committee of New Jersey Future and on the Board of Directors of the Regional Plan

Association. She served as a director on the Common Cause National Governing Association from 1994 through 2000 and as secretary-treasurer of the Jefferson Center from 1994 until 2002. In 1998, she also served on Governor Whitman's Property Tax Commission. She is coauthor of the book, *Elections in America: Control and Influence in Democratic Politics*. She also served on the Supreme Court of New Jersey Disciplinary Oversight Committee as a public member, the Supreme Court Committee on the Tax Court and on the Board of Directors of the Public Education Institute. She is a former president of the Northeastern Political Science Association and has also served as a director of the Alliance for Health Reform, on the Council on New Jersey Affairs, Princeton University, and on other boards and commissions. She also served as a commissioner of ELEC, the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission until January 2004. She also serves as a member of Governor Corzine's Judicial Advisory Panel.

Susan Lederman holds an A.B. degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University. She was born in Bratislava, Slovakia, survived the Holocaust as a hidden child, and immigrated with her parents to the United States in 1948. She and her husband, Peter, reside in New Providence, New Jersey and have two grown children, Stuart, of Madison, NJ and Ellen, of Cincinnati, OH and three granddaughters.



**Spinoza:
Why the Heretic of Amsterdam
Still Matters
Sunday, March 2, 1:15pm
With Rabbi Gordon Tucker**

In the 17th century, the Jewish community of Amsterdam excommunicated Baruch Spinoza, intending to distance him forever from the Jewish world. But even though

they were unorthodox, Spinoza's ideas and writings endure for us, presenting fascinating challenges to contemporary Jewish thought. We will explore some of these aspects of Spinoza's philosophy, which include his views of God, of the Bible, of human freedom, and of salvation.

Gordon Tucker has been the Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY since August 1994. He is, concurrently, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Jewish Philosophy at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is also Honorary Chairman of the Board of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel.

Rabbi Tucker has an A.B. from Harvard University, a Ph.D. from Princeton University, and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has taught at the Seminary since 1976, and in 1979-80, served as a White House Fellow in the administration of President Jimmy Carter.

From 1984 to 1992, Rabbi Tucker was the Dean of the Rabbinical School at the Seminary. His numerous memberships and affiliations have included the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, the Board of Directors of UJA-Federation of New York, and the Board of Advisors of Jewish Lights Publishing. He has published many articles on Jewish philosophy and law, and on Jewish affairs, and has recently published a translation and commentary on Abraham Joshua Heschel's three-volume work on Rabbinic theology, under the title *Heavenly Torah*.

Rabbi Tucker is married to Amy E. Cohn, and has three children – Ethan (married to Ariela Migdal), Becky, and Micah, and two grandchildren.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE AN ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH...

**Recent B'not Mitzvah
had the following
to say about the class:**

***"Class was
OUTSTANDING and I
highly recommend it."***

***". . . it was a wonderful
2 year (almost)
experience, and I would
and have recommended
it to others."***

This class began last March, 2007, but remains open to students who would simply like to return to Judaic and Hebrew studies. This program is open to all Temple members, whether or not you have previously had a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Current participants who have not yet been Bar/Bat Mitzvah will achieve that goal on November 8, 2008.

This program is also open to those who would like to simply return to their Judaica and Hebrew studies.

The classes are on Wednesday morning or Wednesday evening, depending on the attendees' preference. (No classes are held in July and August.)

The Hebrew sessions will be led by Nava Scheckman and are focused on improving Hebrew reading fluency, learning to chant and understanding service prayers.

Loren Hurwitz will lead the Judaic sessions. These sessions will include Jewish History, Jewish Values, Jewish Worship and Prayer, Theology, Jewish Holidays, and Comparative Religion. Topics will be added and deleted as the class wishes.

No prior Hebrew experience is necessary. Temple Sinai offers a 5-session Adult Hebrew Reading class that will quickly provide you the basics so that you will be comfortable in class.

The fee for this program is \$200.00 plus a nominal amount for texts.

Express your desire to attend this meeting, by contacting Patti Kahn, Education Director, at 908-273-3617 or patti@templesinainj.org.



An Artist You Don't Have to Be!

Create your own Judaic art project in a guided, relaxing environment. A wide range of projects and materials will be offered. From clay to paints to print-making to quilting

to metal work, you will design a project of personal Judaic expression. Tzivia Wachsman, artist and teacher, will guide you through the process. No previous skill or experience is required.

6 Monday evening sessions, 7:30-8:30pm

beginning October 22nd

Instructor: Tzivia Wachsman

Course Fee: \$60 plus materials

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617;

patti@templesinainj.org



EXPLORING JUDIASM FOR MEANING

This interactive course will range in topics from women in the bible to Jewish views of social issues; Jewish prayer to Jewish humor. The class group will determine the topics of interest that will form the core of learning.

8 Monday sessions, 10:00-11:00am,

beginning October 22nd

Instructor: Loren Hurwitz

Course Fee: \$90 plus book fee

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617;

patti@templesinainj.org

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Marvin Chasek	Andrew Polsky
Carolyn Fine	Aaron Rosenberg
Eric Friedman	Jack Rossen
Rabbi Stuart W. Gershon	Thomas Schranck
Eugene Helfand	R Malcolm Schwartz
Patti Kahn	Lennard Wharton
Lori Pine	

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 Wednesday mornings.

**5 Friday Morning Sessions, 10-11am,
beginning October 19**

Instructor: Loren Hurwitz

This course is tuition-free. There will be a book fee.

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617; patti@templesinainj.org

LEARN TO READ HEBREW ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We will provide eye-opening coffee and a wonderful teacher, for religious school parents and congregants who want to learn to read Hebrew. Once you have reading skills, continue toward understanding and fluency of Shabbat prayers.

**9 Sunday Morning Sessions, 9:00-10:00am,
beginning October 21st**

Instructor: Tsipi Israel

Course Fee: \$108 plus book fee

Contact Patti Kahn: 908-273-3617; patti@templesinainj.org

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, Cator Merel and invited Jewish Educators.

During the fall, 2007 semester we continue to offer eye-opening coffee and bagels and outstanding instructors in a participatory learning environment on 3 Sunday mornings per grade-level group.

If you would like to join the Family Connections Program for the winter/spring semester, please contact Patti Kahn, Director of Education.

FALL 2007 SEMESTER COURSES

Grade 4: God, Spirituality & Prayer I:

10/21; 11/18; 12/9, 8:30-10:30am

Instructor: Rabbi Gershon

Grade 5: God, Prayer and Spirituality II:

10/14; 1/13; 1/27, 8:30-10:30am

Instructor: Rabbi Gershon

Grade 6: Bible:

9/30; 10/28; 11/18, 11:00am-1:00pm

Instructor: Sandy Schlanger, R.J.E.

Grade 7: Bible:

11/18; 12/2; 1/6, 11:00am-1:00pm

Instructor: Arne Salkin





THIRD FRIDAY NIGHT GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Come to the lecture at 8:15pm or come to the service at 7pm
or come to both (guests are welcome)



**The Implications of a Nuclear Iran
for Israel, the U.S., and the Middle East
With Dr. Gary Sick • October 19**

Dr. Sick is a Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor of International Affairs School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University and Former Director of its Middle East Institute. Professor Sick served on the National Security Council staff under Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan. He was the principal White House aide for Iran during the Iranian

Revolution and the hostage crisis and is the author of two books on U.S.-Iranian relations. Mr. Sick is a captain (ret.) in the U.S. Navy, with service in the Persian Gulf, North Africa and the Mediterranean. He was the deputy director for International Affairs at the Ford Foundation from 1982 to 1987, where he was responsible for programs relating to U.S. foreign policy. He is the executive director of Gulf/2000, an international research project on political, economic and security developments in the Persian Gulf, being conducted at Columbia University with support from a number of major foundations. He is co-editor of four books on the Persian Gulf published by the Gulf/2000 project and Palgrave (formerly St Martin's) Press in New York. Mr. Sick is a member (emeritus) of the board of Human Rights Watch in New York and founding chairman of its Middle East and North Africa advisory committee.



**The Once and Future Supreme Court
With Dr. Barry Friedman • November 16**

Barry Friedman is one of the nation's leading authorities on constitutional law and the judiciary. He is a foremost authority on the jurisdiction and role of the federal courts. A highly prolific and interdisciplinary scholar, Professor Friedman's work integrates politics, law and American history. He has published numerous articles in prestigious journals and often is sought out by journalists for his insight into court decisions. He frequently delivers talks about the Supreme Court and the Constitution. Friedman is co-author of *Judicial Independence: An Interdisciplinary Approach*,

and presently is completing a book-length history of the relationship between popular opinion and judicial review. Professor Friedman has been instrumental in bringing together scholars from various disciplines to study judicial behavior. In addition to being a scholar, Friedman also has been counsel in many constitutional cases involving issues as diverse as the death penalty, abortion, federalism, the first amendment and interstate commerce. During his career Professor Friedman has worked energetically on court reform, both under the Civil Justice Reform Act and through his work as a director and board member of the American Judicature Society. He also has established programs for students seeking academic careers. Friedman is the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, where he also is serving as Vice Dean.



**Masada: Last Stronghold of the
Jewish Resistance against Rome
With Jodi Magness • January 18**

Jodi Magness holds a senior endowed chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism. From 1992-2002, she was Associate/Assistant Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology in the Departments of Classics and Art History at Tufts University, Medford, MA. She received her B.A. in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1977), and her Ph.D.

in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania (1989). From 1990-1992, Professor Magness was Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology at the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art at Brown University.

Professor Magness's book on *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002) won the 2003 Biblical Archaeology Society's Award for Best Popular Book in Archaeology in 2001-2002 and was selected as an "Outstanding Academic Book for 2003" by Choice Magazine. Professor Magness's book *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003) was awarded the 2006 Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize in the category of non-fiction on the archaeology of Israel.



208 Summit Avenue
Summit, New Jersey 07901

TEMPLE
SINAI

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SUMMIT, NJ 07901
PERMIT NO. 426