



TEMPLE
SINAI

TEMPLE SINAI LIFELONG LEARNING SPRING 2009/5769

Annual Doree Cooper Renaissance Memorial Lecture

Friday, May 8, 7:30pm

In Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Kristallnacht

They Were My Neighbors:

Jewish Survivors and Their Rescuers in the Holocaust

Dr. Douglas Greenberg

Professor of History and Executive Dean

School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

In pre-war Europe, many Jews lived side by side with Gentile neighbors. Once the inexorable march of the Nazi terror began, these neighborly relationships were put to the test. In some cases, the viciousness of the criminals was matched by the heroism of men and women who, with nothing to gain, saved their Jewish neighbors from transport

and death. In others, such valor was all too rare. In the memory of survivors, the details of these experiences acquire poignant and profound meaning. How neighbors treated one another in these circumstances reveals much about their particular communities and about the moral underpinnings of heroic acts in times of violence.

**Rabbi
Gershon's
Friday
Night
Teachings for
Spring**

MARCH 6
Anti-Semitism and
the Madoff Scandal

MARCH 13
The Struggle
against Idolatry
in the 21st Century

MARCH 20
The Seven Secrets
of Highly Successful Seders

APRIL 10
What Does It Really Mean
to Observe Passover?

APRIL 17
What do the Dietary
Laws Have to Do with
Jewish Ethics?

MAY 15
Why the Book of Ruth is
My Favorite Book in the
Entire Hebrew Bible

MAY 22
The Relationship Between
Israel and the Obama
Administration

MAY 29
What's the Purpose of
Judaism's 613
Commandments?

JUNE 12
Puncturing Middle
East Mythologies

JUNE 19
The Impact of the Desert
on the
Hebrew Psyche

JUNE 26
Korach's Rebellion:
Real Intentions and
Ultimate Motives

SUNDAY LUNCH & LEARN

Join us for thought-provoking discussion provided by the Lifelong Learning Committee
A donation of \$5.00 for lunch is much appreciated. Please RSVP to office@templesinainj.org

Who Are the Jews? A Genetic Perspective • Harry Ostrer, M.D. • March 1, 2009, 1:15pm



This lecture will provide background for the formation of Jewish peoples as seen through the lens of population genetics. The lecture will feature historical views of Jews as tribes, race and people and will trace the formation of contemporary groups: Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Mizrahi. It will explore in depth the roles of migrations to new lands, founder mothers and fathers in those new lands, endogamy within Jewish communities, and a mixture with non-Jewish groups in forging the contemporary demography of Jews. Examples will be provided of different groups (Ethiopian Jews)

genealogies (Cohanim, Levites, personal), and disease genes. In the process, it will compare the genetic construct of being a Jew against the religious and the cultural.

Harry Ostrer is Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology, and Medicine and Director of the Human Genetics Program in the Department of Pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Ostrer received his undergraduate degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his M.D. degree from Columbia University. He subsequently trained in pediatrics and in medical genetics at Johns Hopkins University and in

molecular genetics at the National Institutes of Health. He studies the genetics of Jewish populations, as well as the genetic basis of prostate cancer and other cancers and the genetic control of male sexual development.

With support from the National Cancer Institute, he mentored many young investigators on genetic epidemiology studies of cancer and other disorders. He is the author of over 100 original research and review articles and the book, *Non-Mendelian Genetics in Humans* (Oxford University Press, 1998). He is currently completing a book on Jewish history and genetics.

Sisterhood Book Group

Monday, March 2, 7:30pm What is the What • By Dave Eggers

What is the What is a novelistic biography of Valentino Achak Deng, a Lost Boy of Sudan. The book follows his struggle for survival in his war-torn homeland and his adaptation to life in the US.

Dave Eggers has made the outlines of the tragedy in East Africa — so vague to so many Americans—not only sharp and clear but indelible. An eloquent testimony to the power of storytelling, What Is the What is an extraordinary work of witness, and of art.
— USA Today

This is Summit's "One Book One Community" selection for 2009.

Please join us in the lounge for discussion. Questions? Contact Dana Langerman: langerpeople@aol.com or 973-467-5757, or Sally Lebwahl: sally.lebwahl@mac.com or 973-377-4527.

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30pm The Inn at Lake Devine • By Elinor Lipman

For our last book of the year, we will read something light and refreshing.

It's 1962 and all across America barriers are collapsing. But when Natalie Marx's mother inquires about summer accommodations in Vermont, she gets the following reply: The Inn at Lake Devine is a family-owned resort, which has been in continuous operation since 1922. Our guests who feel most comfortable here, and return year after year, are Gentiles. For twelve-year-old Natalie, who has a stubborn sense of justice, the words are not a rebuff but an infuriating, irresistible challenge. In this beguiling novel, Elinor Lipman charts her heroine's fixation with a small bastion of genteel anti-Semitism, a fixation that will have wildly unexpected consequences on her romantic life. As Natalie tries to enter the world that has excluded her — and succeeds through the sheerest of accidents — The Inn at Lake Devine becomes a delightful and provocative romantic comedy full of sparkling social mischief.

— From the publisher

A LOST CIVILIZATION: THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE

*A condensed history of the Yiddish speaking
Jewish world, from its origins in 15th century Poland
to the eve of the Holocaust.*

The Lifelong Learning Committee is pleased to announce that, due to popular demand, Professor Allan Nadler will be returning to Temple Sinai to present a short course on the Jews of Eastern Europe. The course will consist of 4 sessions of about 1 and a half hours each, and will cost \$175 per student. The lectures will be held at Temple Sinai on Monday evenings, on April 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 7:30 – 9pm.

The four weekly topics will be:

1. When, how and why Poland (and later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and in the end the Russian Pale of Settlement) became the world's largest Jewish community.
2. The Golden Age of Polish Jewry: 1500-1648
3. New movements in 18th & 19th century Eastern European Judaism: Hasidism, Mitnagdism and the Haskalah.
4. Yiddish Literature and Culture

We hope many of you will participate in what promises to be another first-rate lecture series. Please call or e-mail Patti Kahn at the Temple patti@templesinainj.org to tell her of your interest.

Allan Nadler

**Professor of Jewish Studies; Director, Jewish Studies
BA, McGill, MA and PhD Harvard University**

Allan Nadler, Professor of Jewish Studies, has been on the Drew faculty since 1998. Prior to his appointment at Drew, Dr. Nadler was, for seven years, the Director of Research at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City, and Dean of YIVO's Graduate Training Program, the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. From 1991-94 Dr. Nadler was Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. In 1994-95 he served as Adjunct Professor at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. In 1998 he was the Ezra Sensibar Visiting Professor at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies in Chicago. In 2005 Dr. Nadler was Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at McGill University in Montreal, where he had previously been a faculty member from 1982-1990.

An ordained rabbi, Dr. Nadler served the Charles River Park Synagogue in Boston and Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Westmount (Montreal), Canada's largest traditional Jewish congregation.

Dr. Nadler's articles, reviews and essays have appeared in numerous scholarly and popular journals and newspapers such as *Commentary*, *The New Republic*, *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Judaism*, *Tradition*, *Modern Judaism*, *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, *Forward*, *The Jewish Week*, and *The Baltimore Jewish Times*.

Dr. Nadler is the author of: *Faith of the Mithnagdim: Rabbinic Responses to Hasidic Rapture* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), *The Hasidim in America* (American Jewish Committee Monograph, 1995), and the forthcoming: *The Heretic as Hero: Spinoza in the Modern Jewish Imagination*.

SUNDAY BAGELS & MOSTLY BIBLE STUDY

Middot: Jewish Values in our Lives

March 1, 8:30-10:30am

Cantor Merel

This parent class will focus on Lashon Hara (bad tongue) – gossip. Through small and large group discussion, we will look at Jewish texts that can guide us in making decisions related to being careful with our words.

Jewish History: Dilemmas & Decisions

The Future of the Jewish People vs Individual Survival

March 1, 11am – 1pm

Sandy Schlanger, R.J.E.

In this session we will focus on three key periods of Jewish history that determined whether or not Judaism would survive.

Modern Jewish History:

The Effect of the Enlightenment –

From the Ghettos of Eastern Europe to a

Share in Western Civilization

March 1, 11am – 1pm

Arne Salkin

How did our ancestors get from Bialystock to Summit and what Jewish traditions did they bring with them? We explore the post-Emancipation emergence of Jewish culture and traditions as part of the larger population centers. How did we become Reform Jews? Join us for a lively discussion of our collective Jewish past and how it brought us to our Jewish present.

Israel: Contemporary Issues of Modern Israel

March 29, 8:30-10:30am

Tsipi Israel

Israel declared itself an independent state on 14 May 1948, three years after the end of World War II and the death of six million Jews in the Holocaust. Six decades after fighting six Arab armies to realize the ancient dream of a Jewish return to Zion, Israel is still searching for its identity and place in the world, lacking recognized borders and a way of sharing the land with the Palestinians. On the other hand, the State of Israel is an extraordinary success story; a wonder by any historical measures. We will learn about some pivotal historical events and current issues in Israel.

It's Not Too Late to Talk: Communicating with Your Kids about Sexuality Part 2

**Sunday, April 26
11am-1pm**

With Allyson Sandak, MA

**Sexual Health Educator,
The Center for Family Life
Education, Planned Parenthood
of Greater Northern New Jersey**

A follow-up to November's workshop for parents and other caregivers of middle and high school age children. Come on back for another opportunity to practice effective communication strategies such as starting conversations and using "teachable moments" in the media to discuss sex and sexuality with your children. or join us for the first time! (Attendance at November's workshop is not necessary.)

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

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