



TEMPLE  
SINAI

# TEMPLE SINAI LIFELONG LEARNING FALL 2010/5771

## Rabbi Gershon's Friday Night Teachings

September 3  
Choose Life!

September 10  
It's Your Turn: Responses to  
My Rosh haShanah Sermons

September 24  
Feeding the Hungry  
in Our Community  
With Kathleen DiChiara,  
President and CEO,  
Community Food Bank  
of New Jersey

October 1  
What Does the Torah Teach  
about The Big Bang?

October 8  
Growing Up as an Indian Jew  
With Natasha Kehimkar

October 15  
Abraham's Call

October 22  
Social Action Showcase 1  
With Ellen Flamm, Gayle and  
David Bernhaut

October 29  
The City of Hebron:  
Then and Now

November 5  
Cantor Friedman's  
Sermon in Song

November 12  
You are a Messenger of God

November 19  
Our Trip to Rwanda  
and the Agahozo Shalom  
Youth Village  
with Amanda and  
Steve Greenblatt

November 26  
What Do We Celebrate When  
We Celebrate Thanksgiving?

December 3  
Cantor Friedman's Special  
Chanukkah Program

December 10  
Reflections for  
Solidarity Shabbat

December 17  
Our Grandparents Shaping  
Influence: Tell Me a Story

December 24  
David Brooks Take  
on Chanukkah

December 31  
Resolutions for the  
Secular New Year

January 7  
A Burning Bush is Looking  
for You

January 14  
The Purpose of Prayer  
Will Surprise You

January 21  
The Ten Commandments  
Revisited

January 28  
Biblical Empathy  
for the Stranger

**SAVE THE DATE • MARCH 4-6, 2011**

## **American Jews, Israel, and the Obama Administration**

with Professor Mark Rosenblum, Professor of History, Queens College  
of the City University of New York and  
Director, the Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for  
Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding

**Once again, Temple Sinai members will have three opportunities  
over the weekend to come together for food, drink, intelligent conversation,  
to see old friends, and to make new friends.**

Please look for full details in the spring brochure.

The Annual Henry Dorfman Memorial Scholar-in-Residence program is made possible by the generosity of  
Carolyn Dorfman and Dr. Gregory Gallick in cherished memory of Carolyn's father, Henry Dorfman.

# LUNCH & LEARN

Join Temple Sinai for a series of thought-provoking discussions provided by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

All 1:15pm events include a pre-lecture lunch.

A donation for lunch of \$5.00 for Temple Sinai Members (\$10.00 for non-members) is appreciated.

Please RSVP to [office@templesinainj.org](mailto:office@templesinainj.org) by the Wednesday before each event.

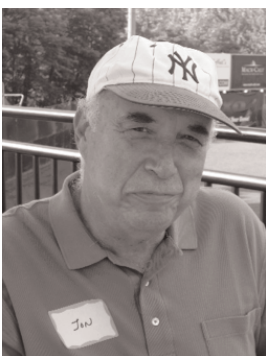


## **Matriarchal Theory: The Jews and the Great Goddess Cynthia Eller**

**October 24, 2010, 1:15pm – 3pm**

Did the ancient Israelites worship a Goddess before they worshipped G-d? This is a question that has generated a lot of interest in recent years as people of many different religious backgrounds have speculated about a prehistoric time of universal goddess worship and matricentric (mother-centered) culture. The Judaism we know from historical records is clearly male-dominated, and G-d is most often envisioned through male metaphors (Father, King) and spoken of with male pronouns. And yet there is much suggestive evidence that the ancient Israelites worshipped a goddess (or goddesses) as well. This talk will investigate Goddess worship among the ancient Israelites, challenge the claim that there was an era of universal matriarchy in prehistoric times, and address the charge, sometimes made, that it was the Jews who "killed the Goddess" by being the first people to champion a male monotheistic religion.

Cynthia Eller is Professor of Religion at Montclair State University. She is the author of *Gentlemen and Amazons: The Myth of Matriarchal Prehistory, 1861-1900*, *The Myth of Matriarchal Prehistory: Why an Invented Past Won't Give Women a Future*, and *Am I a Woman? A Sceptic's Guide to Gender*, among other books.



## **J.D. Salinger and His Influence Jon Plaut**

**November 21, 2010, 1:15pm – 3 pm**

Jon Plaut will talk about J.D. Salinger's body of work and his roots as a New York city Jewish boy of an intermarriage who seeks and experiences, as demonstrated by his life and his stories. His influence is, of course, immense. This lecture will have a broad appeal and perhaps move some people to re-read his works, which are truly post war and holocaust, mid century American fiction reborn. Jon will discuss *Catcher in the Rye*, the *Nine Stories*, including the very personal *For Esme with Love and Squalor*, and the Glass family novels *Franny and Zooey*, *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour, an Introduction*. He will discuss the Salinger seclusion and influence of other authors on him, from Dickens to FitzGerald and he on others from Roth to Amy Bloom.

Jon Plaut is a retired lawyer and long-time Temple Sinai member. He is currently president of the Board of Trustees of the Summit Free Public Library. He lectures there and at other area libraries and institutions across the state. He was an adjunct professor at Penn State University and Ramapo College and is a consultant-lecturer at Rutgers University. He is president of Global Learning, Inc., a New Jersey non-governmental organization. He was a Presidential appointee (President Clinton) from 1994- 2002 to NAFTA and the author of the novel, *Sour Lake Texas* as well as many articles and publications. A graduate of Penn State University in engineering, he has law degrees from Georgetown and New York Universities, as well as a master's degree in cinema from NYU.



## **Jewish Calcutta through Music and Memory**

**Rahel Musleah**

**December 12, 2010, 1:15pm – 3pm**

Rahel Musleah was born in Calcutta, India, the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th-century Baghdad. Through her multi-media song, story and slide programs, she will share with us her rare and intimate knowledge of this ancient community's history, customs and melodies.

Ms. Musleah is an award-winning journalist with hundreds of published articles to her credit. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Family Circle*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Hadassah*, *Reform Judaism*, *Jewish Woman*, *Na'amat Woman* and numerous other Jewish journals. She is a graduate of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She is a member of the Authors' Guild; the Society of Professional Journalists and the American Jewish Press Association. She sings with the Zamir Chorale under the direction of Matthew Lazar. She has received awards for her writing from the American Jewish Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Sephardi Literary Contest, the Society of National Association Publications, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Ms. Musleah hopes to pass down the legacy of the Indian Jewish community to her two daughters, Shira and Shoshana. She lives in Great Neck, NY.



## **Re-deeming Scripture:**

**The Importance of Contemporary Midrash**

**Alicia Ostriker**

**January 9, 2011, 1:15pm – 3pm**

Contemporary midrash remains a topic central to Ms. Ostriker's thinking, and she finds that groups everywhere are excited and stimulated by learning about it. In this talk she describes the similarities and differences between traditional rabbinic midrash and the post-war renaissance of midrash

writing in America. Reading from and commenting on midrashic writing by others, and her own work in *The Nakedness of the Fathers: Biblical Visions and Revisions*, she proposes that contemporary midrash may chart a visionary path for the Judaism of the future.

Alicia Ostriker is a prize-winning poet and critic, who has lectured and presented writing and midrash workshops in many settings in the USA, Israel, England, and Europe. She is the author of the provocative *The Nakedness of the Fathers; Biblical Visions and Revisions*, a combination of midrashic and autobiographical writing, and *For the Love of God: The Bible as an Open Book*, essays on Song of Songs, Ruth, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Jonah and Job. She has twice been a National Book Award finalist, and her volume of poems entitled *The Book of Seventy*, won a National Jewish Book Award for 2009. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, and many other journals, as well as numerous anthologies of Jewish writing. A Professor Emerita of English at Rutgers University, she was poetry editor of *Lilith* for many years. Ostriker leads a monthly midrash writing workshop in NYC.



## **The Bible and the Quran**

**Raymond Scheindlin**

**April 3, 2011, 1:15pm – 3pm**

Dr. Scheindlin will speak about the essential teachings of the Quran and how they relate to Jewish traditions, especially the Bible. From the standpoint of the Quran and the Bible, one might say that both religions are peoples of the Book.

Raymond P. Scheindlin is professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary and director of JTS's Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry. He has been on the JTS faculty since 1974 and served as provost from 1984 to 1988. Dr. Scheindlin teaches and conducts research on the encounter of Hebrew and Arabic cultures in Spain, especially as embodied in the poetry of the two traditions. An expert on Arabic literature, Dr. Scheindlin is the author of a reference book widely used by students of Arabic titled *201 Arabic Verbs*, and reissued as *501 Arabic Verbs* in 2007. Dr. Scheindlin has been the recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture (2004), a Cullman Fellow at the New York Public Library (2005–2006), and a visiting professor at Harvard University (spring 2007). A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Scheindlin received a BA in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, an MHL and rabbinic ordination from JTS, and a PhD from Columbia University.

# JEWISH INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

## 16th-20th Centuries

The Lifelong Learning Committee is continuing its sponsorship of a DVD series of twenty-four lectures produced by The Teaching Company, titled "Jewish Intellectual History, 16th – 20th Centuries" and taught by Professor David Ruderman. The first 8 lectures were presented during the Spring, 2010, and the next 8 lectures this Fall, as shown below. 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. We will follow up with the final 8 lectures next Spring, making 24 lectures in all.

**Session Dates: Tuesday evenings**

**Sept. 28; Oct. 5, 19, 26;**

**Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23; 7:45 – 9pm**

**Location: Temple Sinai; Cost: \$20**

**RSVP by Sept. 14, 2010 to Patti Kahn at [patti@templesinainj.org](mailto:patti@templesinainj.org) or 908-273-3617**

The entire course consists of twenty-four half-hour 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 rely more on interaction among the participants in the form of discussion. Malcolm Schwartz, a member of the Lifelong Learning Committee, will continue 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 outlines and 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 second 8-week series is:**

**The 19th Century – Responses to Emancipation, Integration and Enlightenment**

- 1. Abraham Geiger – The Shaping of Reform Judaism**
- 2. The Neo-Orthodoxy of Samson Raphael Hirsch**
- 3. Zecharias Frankel and Conservative Judaism**
- 4. Samuel David Luzzatto – Judaism and Atticism**
- 5. Zionism's Answer to the Jewish Problem**
- 6. Three Zionist Visions**
- 7. The Jewish Adventure with Socialism**
- 8. Herman Cohen's Religion of Reason**

*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.*

## MONTHLY WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

Come join the group of women who have been discussing Torah with master bible teacher, Sandy Schlanger, R.J.E., one Monday a month (dates chosen by all of us at the first meeting). This is a very participatory class. All ideas are gratefully accepted and processed. No previous knowledge is necessary. We provide all materials. The class meets from 12:00-1:30; our first meeting this year is September 13. All newcomers are welcome!

*New Torah study members please register before September 13 with Patti Kahn, [patti@templesinainj.org](mailto:patti@templesinainj.org); 908-273-3617.*



### LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Helene Berg	Chris McKee
Marvin Chasek	Anne Plaut
Eric Friedman	Aaron Rosenberg
Harvey Feuer, Chairman	Jack Rossen
Ian Feuer	R Malcolm Schwartz
Rabbi Stuart W. Gershon	Bruce Stein
Eugene Helfand	Lennard Wharton
Patti Kahn	

### Hebrew Reading "Crash Course" Level I

The National Jewish Outreach Program's innovative introductory Hebrew program teaches participants to learn to read Hebrew in only six 1 1/2 hour weekly sessions. Parents and Grandparents, won't it be wonderful to share the experience of learning to read Hebrew with your child or grandchild? Of course the class is open to all Temple Sinai congregants. Graduates of the Hebrew Crash Course can go on to the Level II Hebrew course that we will offer in the spring.

**Sundays, October 24; November 14, 21;**

**December 5, 12, 19; 9-10:30am**

Instructor: Malcolm Schwartz, Temple Sinai congregant

### Hebrew Prayer Course: Level II

This course is designed to strengthen the participants' skills in reading fluency and Shabbat prayers. The course will enhance understanding of the ideas and concepts behind the synagogue service and will help you to be a comfortable participant at Shabbat services, including the melodies used in Temple Sinai's worship services. All students will review basic reading skills at the start of the course, but the course assumes participants have either taken the Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I, or have prior knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. If you studied last year with Bruce Stein, this is a continuation of your course.

**Sundays, October 17, 24; November 14, 21;**

**December 5, 12, 19; 9-10:30am**

Instructor: Bruce Stein, Temple Sinai congregant

For either class:

Cost: Free tuition; Location: Temple Sinai

RSVP to Patti Kahn at [patti@templesinainj.org](mailto:patti@templesinainj.org) or (908) 273-3617 by September 19.

## Sisterhood Book Group

**Please join the Sisterhood Book Group for our first book discussion of 2010-2011!**

**Wednesday, October 20th, 2010 7:30 pm**

**The Confessions of Noa Weber**

**By Gail Hareven**

The Confessions of Noa Weber is the story of a woman who leads a successful "feminist" life: she has a strong career, a wonderful daughter she raised alone, and she is a recognized and respected author. Yet her interior life is bound by her obsessive love for one man—Alek, a Russian émigré and the father of her child, who has drifted in and out of her life. Trying to understand—as well as free herself from—this lifelong obsession, Noa turns her pen on herself, and with relentless honesty dissects her life. Against the evocative setting of turbulent, modern day Israel, this examination becomes a quest to transform irrational desire into a greater, transcendent understanding of love.

**From Jessa Crispin, NPR's Books We Like:**

*Despite Hareven's renown as a prolific novelist, playwright and short story author, The Confessions of Noa Weber — winner of Israel's prestigious Sapir Prize — is her first work to appear in English. It's not a casual read; Hareven's insights into desperate yearning are so dead on and painfully astute, the experience can be eviscerating. That the work is also witty and compelling will leave American readers, encountering Hareven for the first time, almost certainly pining for more.*

Please join us in the lounge for discussion.

Questions? Contact Mimi Mehta or Laura Harper at [bookgroup@templesinainj.org](mailto:bookgroup@templesinainj.org)

# TEMPLE SINAI

## Lifelong Learning Events

September/October/November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Sept. <b>1</b> 7:30pm –LLL Committee Meeting	Sept. <b>2</b>	Sept. <b>3</b>	Sept. <b>4</b> 9:00pm - Selichot Service
Sept. <b>5</b>	Sept. <b>6</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	Sept. <b>7</b>	Sept. <b>8</b> 7:30pm – Erev Rosh HaShanah Service	Sept. <b>9</b> <i>Rosh HaShanah</i>	Sept. <b>10</b>	Sept. <b>11</b>
Sept. <b>12</b>	Sept. <b>13</b> 12:00pm –Women's Torah Study Group	Sept. <b>14</b>	Sept. <b>15</b>	Sept. <b>16</b>	Sept. <b>17</b> 7:30pm –Kol Nidre Service	Sept. <b>18</b> <i>Yom Kippur</i>
Sept. <b>19</b>	Sept. <b>20</b>	Sept. <b>21</b>	Sept. <b>22</b> 7:00pm –Erev Sukkot Service	Sept. <b>23</b> <i>1st day of Sukkot</i>	Sept. <b>24</b>	Sept. <b>25</b>
Sept. <b>26</b>	Sept. <b>27</b>	Sept. <b>28</b> 7:30pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Sept. <b>29</b> 7:00pm Erev Simchat Torah Service	Sept. <b>30</b> 7:30pm-Sukkot Yizkor Service	Oct. <b>1</b>	Oct. <b>2</b>
Oct. <b>3</b>	Oct. <b>4</b>	Oct. <b>5</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Oct. <b>6</b> 7:30pm –LLL Committee Meeting	Oct. <b>7</b>	Oct. <b>8</b>	Oct. <b>9</b>
Oct. <b>10</b>	Oct. <b>11</b> 12:00pm –Women's Torah Study Group	Oct. <b>12</b>	Oct. <b>13</b>	Oct. <b>14</b>	Oct. <b>15</b>	Oct. <b>16</b>
Oct. <b>17</b> 9:00am –Hebrew Prayer – Level II	Oct. <b>18</b>	Oct. <b>19</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Oct. <b>20</b> 7:30pm –Sisterhood Book Group	Oct. <b>21</b>	Oct. <b>22</b>	Oct. <b>23</b>
Oct. <b>24</b> 9:00am –Hebrew Prayer – Level II 9:00am –Hebrew "Crash Course" 1:15pm –Lunch & Learn (Cynthia Eller)	Oct. <b>25</b>	Oct. <b>26</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Oct. <b>27</b>	Oct. <b>28</b>	Oct. <b>29</b>	Oct. <b>30</b>
Oct. <b>31</b>	Nov. <b>1</b>	Nov. <b>2</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Nov. <b>3</b> 7:30pm –LLL Committee Meeting	Nov. <b>4</b>	Nov. <b>5</b>	Nov. <b>6</b>
Nov. <b>7</b>	Nov. <b>8</b>	Nov. <b>9</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Nov. <b>10</b>	Nov. <b>11</b>	Nov. <b>12</b>	Nov. <b>13</b>
Nov. <b>14</b> 9:00am –Hebrew Prayer – Level II 9:00am –Hebrew "Crash Course"	Nov. <b>15</b>	Nov. <b>16</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Nov. <b>17</b>	Nov. <b>18</b>	Nov. <b>19</b>	Nov. <b>20</b>
Nov. <b>21</b> 9:00am –Hebrew Prayer – Level II 9:00am –Hebrew "Crash Course" 1:15pm –Lunch & Learn (Jon Plaut)	Nov. <b>22</b>	Nov. <b>23</b> 7:45pm –Jewish Intellectual History	Nov. <b>24</b>	Nov. <b>25</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Nov. <b>26</b>	Nov. <b>27</b>
Nov. <b>28</b>	Nov. <b>29</b>	Nov. <b>30</b>				

NOTE: The Hebrew Reading "Crash Course" continues December 5, 12 and 19.  
 Hebrew Prayer – Level II continues December 5, 12 and 19.  
 Future Lunch & Learn programs are scheduled for December 12, January 9 and April 3.  
 Our Annual Community Building/Scholar-in-Resident weekend is March 4-6.