

Concierge Judaism

Bringing Adult and Family Learning Home to You

TEMPLE SHALOM



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Dear Temple Shalom Congregant,

We are pleased to announce the kickoff of the Temple Shalom Concierge Judaism Education Program beginning this fall! In this exciting program, you and your family will have the opportunity to completely customize your Jewish learning.

In reflecting on the state of Jewish Education today and brainstorming our future here at Temple Shalom, we have developed an exciting plan for customized Jewish learning, a format of Jewish Education based on choice and comfort. From our catalogue, you and your family will be able to choose classes and experiences to completely customize your Jewish learning. Volunteer instructors will teach from the comfort of your home or office, creating a personalized learning experience based on what you, family and friends desire to learn. In addition to Rabbi Paley and Rabbi Boxman, the course offerings will be taught by Temple Shalom congregants and community members who have special talents or interests. Classes offered range from challah baking to mystical text study; from Israeli cooking to Jewish family bedtime rituals.

There is something for everyone, whether it's a private session with your family, your Havurah or just a group of friends. Please note that minimum and/or maximum class sizes may apply.

To begin customizing your Jewish Educational experience, follow these simple steps:

1. Choose a course from the Concierge Judaism catalogue.
2. Decide on a preferred date, time and location for the course to be offered.
3. Email our Concierge at concierge@templeshalomdallas.org and submit your request.¹
4. Receive a confirmation email.
5. Invite your friends and family to join you.
6. Enjoy learning!

We hope that you use our new Concierge Judaism to enrich your life!

Questions? Please contact Rabbi Boxman at aboxman@templeshalomdallas.org.

Shana Tova!



Rabbi Ariel Boxman, Director of Lifelong Learning

Barry Bell, Adult Education Co-Chair

Howard Gottlieb, Lifelong Learning Council Chair and Adult Education Co-Chair

Monica Sandler, Concierge

¹ Our Temple Shalom concierge will do her best to accommodate your requests and find mutually agreeable dates and times with our volunteer instructors.

CONCIERGE JUDAISM: COURSE LISTINGS TEMPLE SHALOM 2014-15

ARTS AND CULTURE

Sculpey Judaica

MINDY DEMBER

Learn how to use sculpey, a polymer type of clay that can be molded, formed and shaped easily. It does not harden until baked and comes in many colors. Artist Mindy Dember will teach you and your friends how to make sculpey mezzuzot and dreidels and help you create beautiful and unique Judaica.

Cost: \$5/person for materials

Biblical Watercolor

MINDY DEMBER

Learn the art of watercolor painting from artist Mindy Dember. Choose from a variety of biblical scenes and practice your newly developed watercolor skills as you paint and socialize.

Cost: \$5/person for materials

Israeli Dance

HOWARD SCHWARTZ

Lace up those dancing shoes and join Israeli Dance Instructor and enthusiast Howard Schwartz for an evening of dancing, laughter and fun! Howard has been dancing for over 30 years and knows more than 400 dances. Whether you are a group of beginners or old pros, Howard can teach it all.

Max 15 participants. Large space needed for dancing.

Modern Jewish Poetry

BARRY BELL

Join Barry Bell for a discussion on several modern Jewish poets including Anthony Hecht, Philip Levine and Allen Ginsberg. Explore the Jewish experience through the eyes of these gifted poets and read some beautiful poetry.

BIBLICAL AND RABBINIC TEXT

The Moral Meaning of the Torah

RABBI ANDREW PALEY

Often we study the Torah and find a listing of "Thou Shalt Not's". This course focuses on the stories of the Bible that struggle with the gray areas of morality. By asking difficult ethical questions about the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham, Moses and Elijah the Prophet, we will be able to wrestle with the Torah's ultimate issues.

Torah and Modern Civil Law

BARRY BELL

The Torah and Talmud address many tort and other civil law issues, and the legal arguments they contain reveal truths about both Judaism and the law. Explore these issues and questions and engage in a lively discussion with attorney Barry Bell.

Creative Midrash

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

In this course we will explore various midrashim (rabbinic stories) from the Book of Genesis. We will discover how the rabbis came up with these imaginative stories and then we will practice writing some of our own!

The Hidden Poetry of the Prayer Book

RABBI ANDREW PALEY

The *Prayer Book* is one of the most important Jewish books. While it is used often, it is wildly misunderstood. This course focuses on the historical background, the poetic beauty and the spiritual significance of the prayers by asking what is said, how is it said, and why it is said. In answering these questions, we will discover the beautiful meaning behind the prayers we so often recite.

Introduction to Talmud

MARK FISHER

The general perception of the Talmud is that it is a legal document meant for scholars and sages. However, this could not be further from the truth. What exactly is Talmud? Who wrote the Talmud? What is the significance of the pages of the Talmud? Who are the rabbis and sages quoted in the Talmud? How do we apply the Talmud and its teachings to modern life? These are just some of the topics that can be discovered by dipping one's toe into the water of Talmud learning. Join Mark in a brief session on the basics of Talmud study!

To request a class or experience, please contact our concierge at
concierge@templeshalomdallas.org.

Why Celebrate Shabbat: A Textual Look at the Origins of our Sabbath

MIKE HARVEY, RABBINIC INTERN

Why do we do what we do on Shabbat? Join us as we look at the multiple texts in our Torah that helped the rabbis design and shape how we, as Reform Jews, now celebrate our Sabbath.

Monolatry vs. Monotheism: How Our Religion Evolved

MIKE HARVEY, RABBINIC INTERN

Jews were not always monotheistic. Together we will examine the evolution our religion has gone through from the belief in multiple gods, to the belief in one God, through the lens of prophetic texts.

The Power of Poetry: A Look at Psalms and Their Impact

MIKE HARVEY, RABBINIC INTERN

The psalms are more than just pleasant poetry found at the end of our Bible. They show us glimpses into multiple dimensions of our faith, including beliefs that didn't quite make it, and voices from God not often heard in mainstream Judaism.

ISRAEL

The Development of Modern Israeli Culture through Film

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

In this class we will discuss different aspects of Israeli history and culture through movie clips. We will begin with a short discussion about the topic and then watch selected clips from Israeli films demonstrating the historical event or cultural issue. Topics to choose from include: Early Immigration and Culture Clash, The British Mandate, The Holocaust & Israeli Society and War & Terrorism in Israel.

Israeli Cooking

JORDANA WITHEILER

Learn how to prepare some delicious Israeli dishes with Jordana in the comfort of your own home! Invite over some friends and have a fabulous evening of cooking, eating and socializing!

\$5/person for materials

The History of the U.S./Israel Relationship — from the MS St. Louis to the Present

KEN GLASER

In May 1939 a transatlantic liner, the MS St. Louis, sailed from Germany with most of its passengers Jews fleeing from the Third Reich. The objective? To temporarily disembark in Cuba while waiting for U.S. visas — which never came. Political considerations in the White House as well as in Congress mitigated against granting entry, and after sailing up and down the Eastern seaboard the liner returned to Europe, where approximately a quarter of the ship's passengers eventually died in Nazi concentration camps. On May 14, 1948, U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new State of Israel and in the 1970s, Israel becomes a major ally of the United States. Follow the historical precedents that trace the factors that have made the U.S.-Israel relationship a unique story in the annals of history.

JEWISH FOOD AND COOKING

Challah Baking

DENISE BLASBAND

Join expert challah baker Denise Blasband for an exciting challah baking workshop. Mix the ingredients, braid the dough and enjoy the delicious flavor of home baked challah. Learn about the process and experiment with different fillings and flavors.

\$5/person

Learning to Love Israeli Wine

INSTRUCTOR TBA

Enjoy an evening of wine tasting and fun. Learn about Israeli wineries and explore a variety of flavors and aromas!

\$5/person

Gluten Free Passover

MONICA SANDLER

In this cooking class we will discuss several Gluten Free menu options for your Passover table and make at least one dish to sample.

\$5/person for materials

To request a class or experience, please contact our concierge at concierge@templeshalomdallas.org.

Baking for all Jewish Holidays

JASON SANDLER

Our very own pastry chef Jason Sandler will teach you and your family how to prepare delicious desserts for the Jewish holidays (i.e., hamentashen, flourless torte, jelly filled maccaroons, etc.). Invite over some friends and have a great night of baking (and eating!).

\$5/person for materials

JEWISH HISTORY

Jews and American Entertainment

MELISSA LEFKOF

For many Jewish immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century, the United States was a chance to build a fresh start. Jewish tradition, imagination, and ingenuity that had long been restricted and/or persecuted in the old world had the opportunity to flourish in the new one. One of the most successful areas was in American entertainment. Even today Jewish influence continues to be clearly visible in American pop culture. This course covers vaudeville, Yiddish theatre, early studios and cinema, radio, early television...and much, much more.

Jewish Gangsters

BERI SCHWITZER

Lansky. Bugsy. Dutch. Criminals who happened to be Jewish. In this discussion we will break traditional Jewish stereotypes and view the Jewish immigration experience and its connection to organized crime.

Jewish Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement

BARRY LACHMAN

In this course, we will examine the role of Jewish participation in the Civil Rights Movement from 1950-1975. As well as looking at how Jews influenced the movement, we will hear from those who were involved and their families, including several Temple Shalom members. The ethical and historic case for Jewish involvement in social action will be discussed.

JEWISH LIFE AND LIVING

Judaism and the Origins of Islam

BARRY BELL

This course will consider the early historical connections between Islam and Judaism, with a detailed comparison of these two versions of monotheism.

A Life Full of Transitions

JO-ANN SAUNDERS

Life is full of transitions. Some are happy (i.e., marriage); some are not (i.e., death); some are expected (i.e., having children), some are not (i.e., illness). The one thing they all have in common is that they are inevitable! For every beginning, there is an ending and for every ending, there is a new beginning. Learn how to recognize these changes in all our lives, so that when they do come, we feel more empowered than fearful!

The Ketubah, the Talmud and You!

BERNIE MAYOFF

The ketubah is the original pre-nuptial contract. Do you know what it actually says, and what the Talmud says about your marital obligations — on cooking, on clothing, on sex? We'll look at what the texts say, we'll discuss some modern cases studies (do you praise an ugly bride?), and we'll laugh a lot.

Eros and Judaism

MARVIN MIGDOL

A scholarly approach about Jews and sex from Biblical times to the present, from Ruth's sexual subversion to current controversies. When you read that someone chose "to lie down" and "to know", did it mean what you thought it meant? This "R" rated class contains humor and seldom heard insights.

Chevra Kadisha

BERNIE MAYOFF

Jewish tradition has always provided for dealing with the end of life, going back to Abraham's securing the Cave of Machpelah as a burial place for Sarah. Jewish custom is that there is a ritual washing and preparing for burial of a deceased person and a growing number of Reform congregations are adopting this practice. The committee that performs this mitzvah is called a Chevra Kadisha. We'll talk about what the Chevra actually does, what kind of people do it, why do they do it, and even how to pronounce Chevra Kadisha!

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Holy Relationships: Improving Communication with Loved Ones

DEANNA KASTEN

Join Deanna in a discussion about communication skills and conflict resolution. Learn effective ways to avoid conflict and find harmony in your relationships. Great for people of all ages!

Ethical Wills

CLIFF CORENBLITH

Ethical wills are windows into the souls of those who write them. They are left behind in the belief that the wisdom acquired in a lifetime is as much a part of a family's legacy as are all of its material possessions. Cliff will teach about the history of Ethical Wills in Judaism and suggestions on how to prepare your own.

Care for the Aging

LINDSAY FELDMAN

Know an older adult in need of services? Have a loved one to care for and not certain where to begin? How can we help? Join Lindsay Feldman, Community Relations Coordinator from The Legacy for a discussion about home healthcare and other meaningful options for your aging loved ones.

TIKKUN OLAM: HEALING THE WORLD

Judaism and Animal Rights

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

In this class, we will explore Biblical, Rabbinic and Modern Jewish texts dealing with the treatment of animals in Judaism. We will discuss issues such as hunting, wearing fur and vegetarianism.

Poverty in America

BARRY LACHMAN

Discuss the history and present situation of the poor in America (and specifically in Dallas). We will explore Jewish ethics and historic involvement in efforts to alleviate poverty in America.

Philanthropy for Families

MEREDITH MARMUREK AND

MEREDITH RICHARDSON

Ever wonder how your family can become more involved with philanthropy? Join Meredith and Meredith in a discussion about possibilities that would be meaningful and special for you and your loved ones.

Repairing the World Together

DEBRA LEVY-FRITTS

Time is probably the most longed for commodity in the day to day of family life. In this class we will explore creative ways of helping to heal the world with our hearts and hands. We will develop a repair manual for healing the world through interactive discussion, learning and activities and we will leave with a mitzvah plan of action.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Unique Beauty and Wisdom of the WRJ's Women's Torah Commentary

RABBI ANDREW PALEY

The WRJ's Women's Torah Commentary is a pioneering work of insight and wisdom originally published in 2008. Beginning as an idea to incorporate women's experiences and women's history into the living memory of the Jewish people, the Women's Torah Commentary has been heralded as a unique tool written by female rabbis, academics and scholars who seek to bring women's voices to the Torah study table.

Women of the Wall: What's all the fuss about?

INSTRUCTOR TBA

View the documentary titled *Praying in Her Own Voice* (2007) by Yael Katzir and discuss the role of women in Judaism and their place in Israeli society.

The Mystery of the Mikveh: Tour and Lunch Discussion

INSTRUCTOR TBA

Join us on a tour of the mikveh and learn about the importance and meaning of the tradition. Finish the afternoon with a delicious kosher lunch at a nearby restaurant!

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FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Where Do Your Feather's Fly

MONICA SANDLER

This workshop addresses speech and Lashon Hara (gossip). We will explore a rabbinic text discussing the care which must be taken when speaking followed by a hands on activity designed to help children remember the value of guarded speech. While designed for children who are between pre-school and 6th grade, the lesson and accompanying activity is enjoyable for people of all ages.

Sacred Parenting: Raising Jewish Children in the 21st Century

MELINDA HEPWORTH, EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITATOR

Are you a new parent or grandparent? Are you interested in bringing Judaism into your child's life? Join Melinda (also a new mom!) in a discussion about Judaism and the ways it can be incorporated early on. Discover books, music and activities that will enrich your child's life and help them to grow up with a love of Judaism.

Havdalah for Young Families

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

In this workshop we will learn about havdala, create our own spice boxes and engage in a musical havdala service.

Teach them Diligently: Top 10 Skills to Teach Your Children

LAUREL FISHER

Join Laurel Fisher in a discussion about Jewish values and how to incorporate them into your family's daily routine. Laurel has some great ideas to share and some creative ways to integrate Judaism in a meaningful way.

Inspirational Jewish Parenting

BRANDY WAYNE

Join Brandy in discussing the book *Parenting with Fire: Lighting Up the Family with Passion and Inspiration* by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. Discuss how to transmit passion to children, motivate them with shared goals and get them excited about Jewish values.

Family Yoga and Meditation

STEPHANIE SPETT, YOGA INSTRUCTOR

Join Stephanie in a fun and engaging session of family yoga! Read a story, sing a few songs and learn how to stretch your body in a relaxing way.

YOUNG ADULTS

Kosher Sex

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

Join Rabbi Boxman in exploring Biblical and rabbinic texts on the topic of sex! What is permissible? What is encouraged? Come find out!

Tattoos and Piercings in Judaism

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

In this course, we will explore Biblical, rabbinic and modern Jewish texts on the topic of tattoos and piercings. Are tattoos and piercings permissible in Judaism? Find out!

Jews and Superheroes

MELISSA LEFKOF

Superman! Batman! Spider-man! Captain America! These beloved superheroes and more would not exist without names like Siegel and Shuster, Bob Kane and Bill Finger, Jack Kirby, and Stan Lee. These brilliant minds created characters and storylines that inspired generations. Like their superhero creations, these writers and artists also have origin stories. For these men and many others, their origin stories are rooted in the Jewish religion and culture. This course explores the role Judaism plays in the development of the modern day comic genre.

MOVIE/BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Live and Become: Ethiopian Jewry in Israel

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

Learn about Ethiopian Jews and their integration into Israeli society. We will begin by watching the French film *Live and Become* by Radu Mihaileanu and then discuss the film and the current state of Ethiopian Jewry. Session will last approximately three hours (including movie and discussion).

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The Quarrel

BARRY BELL

The Quarrel directed by Eli Cohen and based on a short story by Chaim Grade, presents an intelligent and moving “quarrel” between old friends about religion and secularism after the Holocaust. The movie won numerous international awards, and is sometimes compared in its style to *My Dinner with Andre*. Join Barry Bell for an evening of film and discussion. Session will last approximately three hours (including movie and discussion).

Turn Left at the End of the World: Cultural Conflict in Israel

RABBI ARIEL BOXMAN

Learn about the immigrant culture in Israel and the conflicts which arise when customs, traditions and rituals are blended. We will begin by watching the film *Turn Left at the End of the World* by Avi Nesher and then discuss the current state of Israeli immigration. Session will last approximately three hours (including movie and discussion).

CREATE YOUR OWN

Can't find what you are looking for? Simply email our concierge at **concierge@templeshalomdallas.org** and tell her what you would like to learn. She will find an instructor and arrange a customized session for you!

To request a class or experience, please contact our concierge at **concierge@templeshalomdallas.org**.

