

TEMPLE ISRAEL ADULT EDUCATION (2017-2018)

Temple Israel Adult Education, in collaboration with Hebrew College, presents a new learning program at Temple Israel called **Open Circle**:



What is Open Circle?

Open Circles are discussion-based classes that bring together small groups to tackle big questions. Classes are led by engaging, Hebrew College educators who make Jewish learning approachable and relevant to people of all backgrounds.

PROGRAM COURSES

#1 *“The Mamas and the Papas and all the Kids: Family Drama in the Bible”*

The Book of Genesis is filled with intriguing tales of husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters. By looking at stories that we think we already know, and by listening to them closely, as told by old and new interpreters, we will uncover surprising insights about Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham and Sarah’s family, and more. In so doing, we’ll seek to find our own selves in our deepest, oldest stories.

Rabbi Allan Lehmann – Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
October 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16, 30

#2 *“The Challenges of Pluralism: Modern Jewish Approaches to Religious Difference”*

What does the classical Jewish notion of “the Chosen People” mean in a modern, pluralistic society? How do we understand the similarities and differences among Judaism and other spiritual and cultural traditions? How might we engage meaningfully and authentically with people from different walks of religious and secular life? In this course, we will explore the writings of various modern Jewish thinkers and activists on the subject of religious diversity. As we are introduced to the works of such individuals as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Irving Greenberg and Judith Plaskow, we will reflect together on our understandings of Jewish identity in contemporary life.

Rabbi Or Rose – Lunch and Learn, Mondays, noon – 2:00 pm
December 4, 11, 18; Jan 8, 22, 29

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#3 *“King, Warrior, Magician, Lover: Biblical Characters and Masculinity in the Bible”*

The Bible is replete with fascinating masculine archetypes -- including some women! We will explore some of the lesser known biblical figures and how their masculinity plays into their story. We will explore the question: does the Bible have something to teach us about masculinity today? What emerges as the Jewish masculine archetype? Explore the very nature of gender in our biblical tradition!

Rabbi Michael Shire and Rabbi Eric Gurvis – Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Feb. 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

#4 *“Faith and Doubt: Contemporary Israeli Poets in Dialogue with the Bible”*

Even the most “secular” Israeli poets draw deeply on the language, stories, and themes of the Hebrew Bible. In many ways, their craft is a form of contemporary midrash, as they re-read, reinterpret, and wrestle with biblical texts and their meaning for our time. Their creative engagement with Jewish tradition offers an important window into Israeli society – and also opens up new ways into reflecting on our questions of faith and doubt.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld – Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17

Class sizes limited! \$120* per course Temple Office 508-650-3521, ext. 100

***TI members reduced fee---thanks CJP and Temple Israel Learning Institute (TILI)**

TEMPLE ISRAEL ADULT EDUCATION (2017-2018)



The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in An Age of Choice

A Jewish Theological Seminary Video Curriculum, featuring outstanding Teachers of the Conservative Movement

From political and financial scandals to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of ethical and moral concern. Now more than ever, we require a solid understanding of how Jewish ethics can inform our decisions about the critical questions of the day. Presenters include Chancellor Arnie Eisen, Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Rabbi Elliot Dorff and more.

#5 Fall topics will include: Modern Day Slavery, The Ethics of Torture, and End of Life Care

#6 Spring topics will include: Disabilities and Inclusion, Surrogacy, The Ethics of Medical Enhancement, and Is Lying Ever Ethical

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Dan Liben

WHEN: Mondays, noon – 2:00 pm
Fall (3 Lunch & Learns) – November 13, 20, 27
Spring (4 Lunch & Learns)- April 9, 23, 30, May 14

FALL FEE: \$30 (3 Lunch & Learn classes)

SPRING FEE: \$40 (4 Lunch & Learn classes)

TEMPLE ISRAEL ADULT EDUCATION (2017-2018)

Making Prayer Real, a Video/Discussion curriculum

How can I deepen my experience of Jewish prayer? Join us for a year of exploring Jewish prayer, in all its various modalities and possibilities. This class features lively video lectures, with a rich variety of Jewish teachers and practitioners of prayer, opening the possibility for you to develop meaningful personal practices.

#7 Module 1: Engaging Prayer - October 25, November 1, 8, 15

The Difficulty of Prayer; When Prayer "Works;" Yearning: Psalms and the Stirrings of the Heart; The Life of Gratitude

#8 Module 2: Foundation - November 29, December 6, 13, 20

Prayer as a Practice; Bringing Our Bodies into Prayer; The Art of Blessing; Creating Sacred Space

#9 Module 3: Listening Deeply -The *Shema* and Blessings - Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

Mindfulness: Listen Before You Speak; Tradition! The Benefits of Liturgical Prayer; *Shema* 1: A Narrative Approach to Liturgy; *Shema* 2: Meaning and Interpretation

#10 Module 4: Personal - *Teshuvah* and Introspection – May 16, 23, 30, June 6

The Challenge of Personal Prayer; Cultivating Your Personal Prayer Voice; *Teshuvah*: Introspection for Change; Discerning Divinity: Listening for a Response to Prayer

INSTRUCTOR: Rabbi Dan Liben

WHEN: Wednesday Evenings

TIME: 7:00 -9:00 pm

FEES: \$20 per individual module (each module is 4 classes)*

*NOTE: You can sign up for any or all of the four, four-session modules.