



How our Adult Education Program is Organized

Our adult education offerings are divided into three categories, corresponding to the three core values of Mount Zion's vision:

TORAH תורה

Life-long Learning ♦
Sacred Texts ♦ Hebrew

In this category, you will find courses, lectures, and discussions on Torah and other sacred Jewish literature. You will also find lessons at all levels in the Hebrew language through which we are best able to access these sacred texts.

AVODAH עבודה

Worship ♦ Liturgy ♦ Spirituality

Here you will find classes covering topics on religion and spirituality, including liturgy, life-cycles, theology, holiday rituals, and Jewish music and chanting. Through these offerings, we enrich our spirituality and the meaning of our worship services.

GEMILUT CHASADIM גמילות חסדים

Acts of Loving Kindness and
Justice ♦ Social Action ♦
Community Issues ♦
Culture & Israel

In this grouping, we have gathered a variety of learning experiences from the treasure trove of Jewish culture, history, politics, and art, seeking ways to better connect to one another, to our spiritual home in Israel, and to the American society in which we live.

To register for any class, go to
mzion.org or contact Julie at
jbeckman@mzion.org

Inside

Inside this brochure are classes and one-time programs for all kinds of learners. Browse and find something that sparks your curiosity.

Learn Hebrew!

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Torah at the Center...

Every week, three times to study Torah.
Stop by anytime.
No experience/background necessary.

Torah Mondays

Rabbi Esther Adler

12:00-1:00 p.m. (ongoing)

Mount Zion Temple

Take a lunch break from your busy life and join this Torah discussion. We read through the text and commentaries, and respond with our own experiences, ideas, and events of the day to illuminate the intricate relationships that evolved among our ancestors. We are currently studying the weekly Haftarah portions.

Bring Your Lunch!

Thursday: Genesis with Rashi

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (ongoing)

220 S. 6th St., Suite 1800 Minneapolis
(US Bank Building)

Fill your spirit with food for the soul over lunch in a downtown conference room. Study the book of Genesis the way it has been studied for centuries, with the great commentator Rashi as our guide. Come once or regularly and enjoy the camaraderie of a chevruta, the Talmudic way of learning with one's friends and colleagues.

Bring Your Lunch!

Shabbat-Open Torah Study

Studying the weekly Torah portions with our Rabbis.

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. (ongoing)

Mount Zion Temple

This weekly study group is open to regular attendees and those who are able to drop in once or periodically -- people of all ages, knowledge and background. Through reading and discussion of the weekly parashah/Torah portion, participants will learn the stories of Torah and make them come alive in their own lives.

Learn Hebrew This Year!

Follow synagogue services, be more involved in your children's Jewish education, or simply enhance your own ties to Judaism. To register for classes, go to mzion.org.



Beginning Adult Hebrew

Introduction to the aleph-bet, basic grammar and Hebrew roots. Acquire the tools to participate with the siddur and our sacred Hebrew texts.

Tuition (includes all materials):

\$75 members/\$100 non-members (Minimum 5 students for all classes).

Wednesdays, October 25 - January 17, 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. (ten classes)

Taught by Siana Goodwin

Sundays, October 29 - January 28, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. (ten classes)

Taught by Kent Simon

Hebrew Marathon!

Learn the Aleph - Bet in a Day

Sunday, October 15, 9:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$36, *Taught by Siana Goodwin*

For those familiar with the aleph-bet, we will be reading from the Tanakh, learning to recognize word roots and constructions and increasing familiarity with Hebrew words, phrases, and rhythms.

Korah in These Times:

Conflict, Kavod (respect), and Belonging

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul JCC

\$60 for the series; \$40 for Hineni Supporters and JCC Members

Teacher: Professor Earl Schwartz

In this series we explore our current crisis in civil dialogue in light of biblical and rabbinic sources on democratic institutions, moral principles, and building and sustaining social bonds. Register at stpauljcc.org.

Co-sponsors: Hineni and St. Paul JCC



ENGAGE: An Evening of Jewish Learning

Saturday, Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m. at Talmud Torah of St. Paul

\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door (under 30 - free)

First-rate teachers, wonderful learning, wide-ranging topics – from cerebral to hands-on! Round out the evening with schmoozing, live music, and refreshments...and all that in the middle of the winter. Registration starts Dec. 10. Register at ttspp.org.

Co-sponsors: Hineni and St. Paul JCC; Community Partners: Adath Israel, Beth Jacob, Mount Zion Temple, Temple of Aaron



Torah E-Study



Who? Reform Jews committed to having Judaism inform their daily lives. Congregational officers, board members, committee chairs and adult learners are encouraged to participate.

What? 10 minutes a day of personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic. Each day has a separate theme:

Monday - Reform Voices of Torah

Tuesday - Celebrating Jewish Arts and Culture

Wednesday - Israel Connections

Thursdays - Reform Life, Jewish Life

Friday - Weekly news updates

How? Each weekday morning (Monday-Friday) an e-mail will be delivered to your inbox for you to study at your convenience.

Study that Matches Your Lifestyle - Sign up at reformjudaism.org/sign-receive-ten-minutes-torah

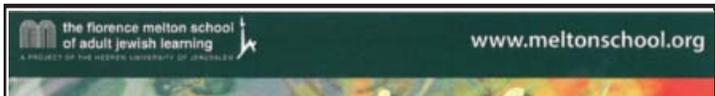
TORAH ON THE WEB:

reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study - Excellent commentary on the Torah portion.

reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shabbat - The Reform Movement's weekly commentary designed to inspire discussions at your Shabbat table.

reformjudaism.org/learning/ten-minutes-torah - 10 Minutes of Torah - Receive weekly emails of Torah commentary and reflections on current events (see above).

myjewishlearning.com - Resource on everything from holidays to mysticism.



Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

This two-year course goes far beyond one-shot lectures or short-term seminars, challenging adult Jewish learners to engage in Jewish learning in a serious and comprehensive way. Each lesson is designed to inspire and enlighten you irrespective of your prior experience or background. This course is ideal for those looking to deepen their understanding of the basics of Judaism and Jewish living. Classes for this wonderful program will take place on **Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., at Adath Jeshurun, from October 9 through May 14, 2017.**

Hineni is partnering with Twin Cities area synagogues and agencies to bring this highly regarded and popular program our community.

Tuition is \$500 per year + books. **For more information or to RSVP for the free Taste of Melton on Sept. 11,** contact Sara Lynn Newberger at sara.lynn@tsp.org or 651-698-8807. Class space is limited.

Avodah & Worship

Amaze your friends and influence people! How?

Learn to Chant Torah!

Sundays, Oct 8, Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 & 10

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein

\$36 materials fee



In just five sessions, you too can learn how to chant Torah! The chanting of Torah has always been one of the foremost ways to transmit our tradition. And Mount Zion needs YOU to do it! We will be using the textbook *The Art of Torah Cantillation: A Step-by-Step Guide to Chanting Torah* by Cantors Marshall Portnoy and Josee Wolf. Participants are encouraged to chant at future Shabbat and Festival morning services. The ability to read Hebrew is a prerequisite for the class. Contact Cantor Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org if interested.

Anshei Mitzvah: Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (includes Trope class)

Oct 8, Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 & 10, Jan 14 & 28; Feb 11 & 25; March 11 & 25; April 8 & 22; May 6

Cost: \$118 (Scholarships available)

*"Today I am a fountain pen!"**

If you never had the opportunity to stand up before your community and declare yourself...

If you have participated in Mazal classes or Torah Study...

If you want to strengthen your knowledge and deepen your commitment...

If you can decode Hebrew and are ready to learn Trope...

Now is the time to become an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

This year's class will become Anshei Mitzvah on **Shabbat morning, May 19, 2018**, just before Shavuot. Participants will study together throughout the year, then lead the service, chant Torah, and share their wisdom with a D'var Torah or D'var Tifilah (interpretation of a Torah portion or prayer). If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Adler.



**In the 1940s humorist Sam Levenson riffed on the expected Bar Mitzvah speech opening line "Today I am a man..."*

Day-Long Jewish Silent Meditation Retreat

Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Talmud Torah of St. Paul

\$50 or \$35 for JCC members and Hineni Supporters

Led by Sara Lynn Newberger and Cantor Audrey Abrams

Join us for a day of contemplation as we practice walking and sitting meditation, chanting, silent eating, and heart-centered Torah study. Register at tsp.org. *Co-sponsors: Hineni and Beth El Synagogue*

Kol Tzion (Voice of/All of Zion)

Mount Zion's NEW adult choir

(formerly known as Torah Tones)

Directed by Cantor Strauss-Klein



- Connect to the sacred through song!
- Experience a small-group singing community!
- Continue to develop musical skills!
- Learn more about the liturgy!
- Participate in 6-7 Shabbat services throughout the year!

Rehearsals take place on **Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm**. This year, January rehearsal time is reserved for a **special J-Term opportunity open to those who read music**: a series of four rehearsals in January will lead up to a sermon-in-song program for Shabbat Shira on Friday, January 26. Please contact Cantor Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org with any questions!

Miracles: An Afternoon of Arts and Jewish Learning

Sunday, Dec. 3, 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Sabes JCC

\$50 or \$35 for JCC members and Hineni Supporters



As we approach Chanukah, a festival of miracles, we will use text study and artistic expression to consider what miracles are and how we might understand them today. This program is geared to artists and non-artists alike. Register at ttsp.org.

Co-sponsors: St. Paul JCC and Sabes JCC

A Taste of Honey: An Introduction to Judaism

Member: \$36, Public: \$75

Mondays, October 2 - December 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Esther Adler

This course provides students with a basic understanding of Jewish practice and belief. Topics include Jewish history, life cycle, Shabbat, theology, home observance and more! For anyone interested in learning more about Judaism and/or thinking about conversion.



Selichot

The Night that Ushers in the High Holy Days

Saturday, September 16

Exploring the Mysteries and Myths of the Veil: The Veil in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Dr. Susanna Drake, Chair, Religious Studies, Macalester College

8:30 pm - Program During the High Holy Days, as we reflect on our lives, we become aware of how we veil our true selves in metaphoric ways. On this night of Selichot, Dr. Drake will talk about the physical veil (head covering/hijab) and the ways it can both cover and communicate a woman's identity and how that understanding differs among religions and cultures. You may be surprised by how much you identify with women who choose the veil, and empathize with those for whom the veil is not a choice. We will end with the question of what "veils" we choose, or not, in our own lives.



9:45 pm - Reception

10:15 pm - Havdalah and Selichot Service featuring a new, provocative prayer book *Mishkan haLev* (Tabernacle of the Heart.)



Building a Jewish Home, Creating a Jewish Family

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

Mondays, January 29, February 5 & 19,
7:00-8:30 p.m.

\$36 members/\$50 public per person

A guided discussion for couples (same faith and interfaith) and for single heads of household exploring Jewish holidays, education, ethics and more.

What does it mean to have a "Jewish" home? This three-part class is for couples, at whatever stage of relationship -- whether same-faith or interfaith -- who want an open and structured way to reflect. The emphasis of the class will be on each couple making the choices that are right for them after study and discussion on key questions of Jewish life. Examples: What Jewish values will we emphasize? What books and periodicals and art will be in our home? What rituals will we incorporate? What will Shabbat look like in our home?

7th Annual Men's Retreat

Save the Date: Friday-Sunday, June 8 - 10, 2018



Our Bodies, Our Souls

21st Annual Jewish Retreat for Women

Friday Evening to Saturday Evening
Save the Date: **January 19-20, 2018**



Anti-Semitism in the Modern Era:

A class about hate, bigotry, and prejudice in the West and in Muslim Lands

Instructor: Dr. Arie Zmora

Wednesdays, October 25 – December 13, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$54; financial assistance is available from Larry Solomon or Rabbi Spilker.

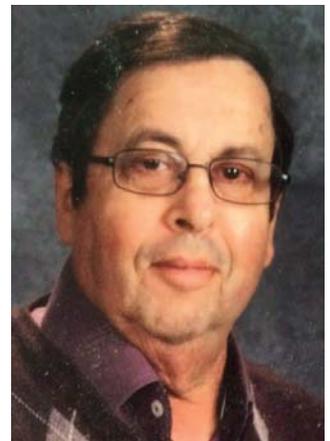
As we watched with horror the march of Neo-Nazis in Charlottesville and heard the hateful anti-Semitic slurs expressed by hateful crowds of marching Nazis and KKK fanatics, we were painfully reminded that anti-Semitism lurks just under a thin surface today even here in the US. Though these are fringe groups, why is anti-Semitism in this day and age still a persistent factor in our public discourse?

The aim of this class is to offer an historical perspective, to trace the origins, and to discuss major features of anti-Semitism that have influenced the public discourse today. Our discourse will start with the Medieval religious legacy portraying Jews as Christ killers and the blood libel canard that defined the Jews as a diabolical pariah throughout the ages. We will learn how the spirit of the Enlightenment Era, methods of self-criticism, and the rationalism of the 18th century helped rehabilitate and usher Jews into mainstream Western-European societies through emancipation decrees and the granting of civil rights. In the aftermath of the French Revolution, we will learn of the new form of anti-Semitism - Racism. As the new emerging nation states of Europe fostered the mantra of national unity and homogeneity the public increasingly viewed the Jew as 'the Other' and questioned his loyalty to the State. We will learn of the new forms of anti-Semitism expressed in the rise of racial social theories and the rise of populist racial parties in Europe. In the last session, we will learn of the anti-Semitic reactions to Zionism on the right and on the left, and in Muslim countries.

Class Format: We will have short lectures followed by discussions. Short readings, handed out in class, will include classical literary sources and historical documents that we will discuss in class.

Our first session will be dedicated to a short reading from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* - what has been defined as the Shylock Syndrome. Here we will read the monologue of Shylock in which he is looking to obtain the pound of flesh that he supposedly earned 'in a devil's bargain'. The class will discuss the gruesome legacy of the blood libel and the overall impact the Shylock character had on the conscience of theatre-going spectators, the public at large, and the Jewish public then and today. Just to entice your curiosity on controversial aspects of the play: *The Merchant of Venice* was put on stage continuously by the Nazi Regime all over the Third Reich. In 1953, the actor that played the Shylock character in Vienna during the Nazi Era was put on trial as a war criminal. Charges were dropped after George Bernard Shaw came to the actor's defense in the name of freedom of expression.

Arie Zmora is a native of Israel, holding BA and MA degrees from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem in History and International Relations; MPhil in European History from The Johns Hopkins University; PhD in European History from University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Zmora has taught over the past eighteen years in area colleges and universities wide variety of classes on European and Middle East (Hamline University, Macalester College, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Saint Cloud State University, University of Wisconsin, River Falls). For over a decade (2001-13), Dr. Zmora was co-director of Middle East Exchange Programs funded by the US Department of State at Hamline University with participation of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Lebanese partners.



Mark your calendar for Dr. Zmora's next class!

The Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1917

Wed, Jan 3 – Feb 21

MUSSAR AT MOUNT ZION

2017-18 / 5778



The World of Mussar is opening before you ... and you are invited to enter.

Our Mount Zion community is expanding our program of study and practice in the way of the Jewish spiritual tradition of Mussar and everyone is invited to join! Mussar may best be described as “Jewish spiritual ethics” and has been practiced for centuries by people who sought to cultivate and strengthen the qualities of the inner mensch. There are no pre-requisites nor is Hebrew required.

Come join in small group study as we explore together what the Jewish tradition has to teach us about the traits of humility, gratitude, equanimity, patience, order, and honor, among others – and discover how you can improve these qualities in your own life. We will explore these traits together in a safe, supportive, exciting and collaborative environment.

NEW TO MUSSAR?

Seeking Everyday Holiness with **Rabbi Heidi Waldmann** – At the center of this course is the inspiring book *Everyday Holiness* by Alan Morinis, Dean of The Mussar Institute. The course will delve into 9 of the most important soul-traits (middot in Hebrew) that the book covers. The course involves group meetings and personal study and practice.

Rabbi Heidi Waldmann, a member of Mount Zion, was ordained through the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2005, followed by three years leading a Reform Congregation in Plattsburgh, NY, and eight years as Staff Chaplain at Indiana University Health North Hospital.

When? **Tuesday evenings** (7-9 pm) at the Roseville Library (2180 Hamline Ave)
Nov 7, 21; Dec 5, 19; Jan 9, 23; Feb 6, 20; Mar 6, 20; Apr 3

Leadership Development Mussar with **Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker** – Using the *Seeking Everyday Holiness* curriculum, **Rabbi Spilker will lead members of the Mount Zion Board of Directors and Kehillah Council in a journey of exploring leadership from the inside out.** Together, we will study 9 core middot, engage in group discussion, and share our personal practices. We will discuss how these soul traits impact ourselves, our congregation, and our perspectives as leaders. Come be a part of this dynamic learning circle of leadership!

When? **Monday evenings** (7-9 pm) at Mount Zion
Oct 9, 23; Nov 6, 20; Dec 4, 18; Jan 8, 22; Feb 12, 26

Cost for either class: The fee per person – including a book, materials, and webinars for the year is based on *The Mussar Institute's* charge for use of their program materials. We are offering a sliding scale. Choose the fee that feels most comfortable for you: \$72 (scholarship option) or \$150 (our true costs) or \$218 (sustainer option). Additional support is available from our clergy.



WHY MUSSAR?

Do you ever wonder:

- What really matters in life?
- How do I incorporate Jewish values into everyday life?
- Can I find more “real” relationships with peers?
- Is there a Jewish way to meditate?

ALREADY HAVE BACKGROUND IN MUSSAR?

If you have already taken “Seeking Everyday Holiness”, you can sign up for “**Adventures in Mussar.**”

Adventures in Mussar ongoing middot study with Julie Dean - We will continue deepening our daily personal practice as well as our study of middot in these dynamic, inspiring learning groups. Participants will study both modern and traditional texts, including modern commentators, Kabbalistic interpretations, and Chasidic literature. Groups include guided visualization, chant, meditation, and experiential activities. Participants work closely with a chevruta (study partner) throughout the course. The Sunday group will be embarking on their fifth season of Mussar together. **The Wednesday group welcomes new and returning participants committed to dedicated study, learning, and practice of Mussar.**

When? Two options both facilitated by Julie Dean:

Sunday afternoons (4-6 pm) – in Uptown, Minneapolis, **ALREADY FULL**

Oct 22, Nov 5, 19, Dec 3, 17, Jan 14, 28, Feb 11, 25, Mar 11, 25, Apr 8, 22, May 6, 20, June 30

Wednesday mornings (11am-1 pm) – held at Mount Zion, **6 openings**

Oct 25; Nov 8, 22; Dec 6, 20; Jan 10, 24; Feb 7, 21; Mar 7, 21; Apr 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30

Cost? We are offering a sliding scale. Choose the fee that feels most comfortable for you: \$109 (scholarship option) or \$218 (our true costs) or \$324 (sustainer option). Additional support is available from our clergy.

MOUNT ZION MUSSAR SHABBATON - Back by popular demand!

February 24, 2018 at Camp Butwin, Eagan

Mount Zion’s previous and current Mussar participants are invited to an engaging and inspiring one-day Shabbaton. Join us for experiences that will deepen your personal practice, increase your learning, and build new bonds with others traveling a Mussar inspired path.

Also, this year in our community (details to come):

- Rabbi David Jaffe from *the Institute for Jewish Spirituality* will be at Beth El Synagogue in February 2018.
- **ENGAGE with Mussar and Middot**, March 11, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Adath Jeshurun Rabbi Ira Stone from *the Philadelphia Mussar Institute*

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

Scholar-in-Residence

Co-Sponsored by Mount Zion's Brotherhood
April 27-29, 2018



Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin is one of American Judaism's most-published and most-quoted thought leaders. Ever since his first book, *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim The Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah* (Jewish Lights Publishing), Rabbi Salkin has been known for his writing, teaching and activism. He spends his waking hours pondering and teaching about such questions as: "What is the Jewish mission in the world today?" "Why is Zionism a problematic word for so many people?" "How can we help non-Jews find role models in Jewish history?" and "How do we make Judaism meaningful to teens?"

Friday During Shabbat Services (7:30 pm):

Where do Modern Men Fit into Modern Judaism?

Saturday Shabbat Lunch and Learn (1:00 pm):

Anti-Semitism: The Oldest Ism

Havdalah (8:00 pm):

Being God's Partner:

How to Find the Hidden Link between Spirituality and Your Work

Sunday For Religious School families and all interested (10:00 am):

My "Theme is God": Putting the Mitzvah into B'nei Mitzvah

For Teens and all interested (12:30 pm):

How to talk about Israel with your friends

Kristallnacht: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Pulpit Guest: Fred Amram

Friday, November 10, during the 7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Looking back, Fred remembers Kristallnacht in 1938 Hannover, Germany. He asks, "What does the past teach us about the future?"



Fred M.B. Amram and his wife Sandra Brick are long-time members of Mount Zion. Fred is the Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creativity and Communication at the University of Minnesota and the author of a memoir: "We're in America Now: A Survivor's Stories." He is the father of our Religious School Director Susan Summit.

Great Expectations: A Program for Expecting Parents

Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein



Great Expectations is an opportunity for expectant individuals and couples to meet in an intimate setting for a Jewish perspective on pregnancy, birth, baby namings, bris and what it means to be a new parent. It is a chance to share their concerns, questions and ideas as well as get advice about prayers to bring to the hospital, Hebrew names, and ways to connect to the synagogue and Judaism with their new families. If interested, please contact Cantor Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org.

Israel Book Discussions

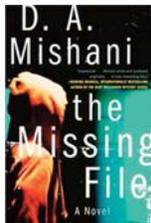
Meet in the Mount Zion Library

Join us for an engaging conversation about Israeli life through its literature. Even if you cannot read the book in advance, you are welcome.

Questions? Contact Charles at CSFodor@aol.com or Jonathan at jkeisenthal@comcast.net.

***The Missing File* by Dror Mishani**
Monday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.

In *The Missing File*, Israeli detective Avraham Avraham must find a teenage boy gone missing from the suburbs of Tel Aviv in this first volume in a fresh new literary crime series by D. A. Mishani.



Schedule for the Year Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

- November 6: *The Hilltop*, by Assaf Gavron
- January 8: *Memoir of the Kibbutz*, by Yael Neeman
- March 5: *All the Rivers*, by Dorit Rabinyan
- May 7: *My Michael*, by Amos Oz
- July 2: *Asylum City*, by Liad Shoham
- September 17: *Shimon Peres*, by Michael Bar-Zohar
- November 5: *Simple Story*, by S. Y. Agnon

How is Reform Judaism Saving Judaism?

Pulpit Guest: Rabbi David Stern
Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi David Stern is President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the international rabbinic organization of the Reform movement, with some 2,000 members. In this role, he follows in the footsteps of his father Rabbi Jack Stern, and her grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Phillip Ruden. Rabbi Stern has served as Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, Texas since 1996. He and his wife Rabbi Nancy Kasten have three children.



St. Paul JCC Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. at Mount Zion
 with Shuly Natan

This is the oldest community orchestra in the United States, having just celebrated its 90th year in 2016! Our 45-piece volunteer orchestra performs and practices weekly the arrangements chosen by Director and Conductor Amir Kats who will begin his sixth season with the St. Paul JCC's Symphony Orchestra.



For more information visit stpauljcc.org or contact Alyssa Golob at (651) 255-4736.

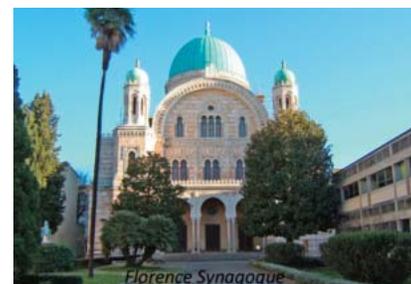
Pulpit Guest: Rabbi Leigh Lerner

Friday, November 17 & Sunday, November 19

The Jews of Italy, A Guided Tour

Friday, November 17, following Shabbat Services (approx. 8:30 pm)

More than two millennia old with its own unique Jewish rite and unusual, elegant synagogues, the Italian Jewish community numbers a mere 30,000 souls yet took an active role in the unification of the country and has contributed two prime ministers! Today Italy counts four and a half Reform congregations. Rabbi Leigh Lerner is planning his sixth winter in Italy, contributing his help as a visiting rabbi to our Reform congregations in Florence, Rome, and Milan. He travels extensively, meeting Italian Jews and hearing their remarkable stories, even as he teaches classes and leads services in Italian. He'll share with us his experiences and the story of Jewish Italy in a fully illustrated talk.

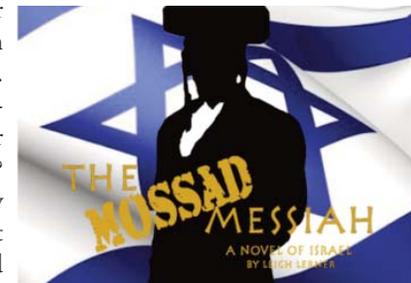


Israel's Ultra-Orthodox and Us

What Today's American Jews Need to Know

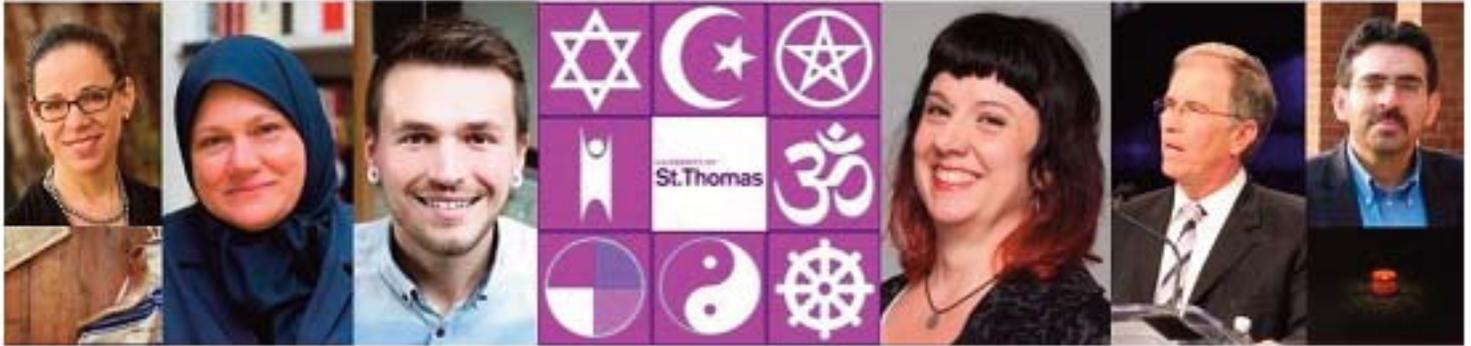
Sunday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.

Join Rabbi Leigh Lerner for his illustrated introduction to Israeli ultra-Orthodoxy. How did the ultra-Orthodoxy arise as a power in Israel? What are its goals? Who leads its groups? Why is ultra-Orthodoxy a threat to the Israel we know and love? In explaining ultra-Orthodoxy to our congregation, Rabbi Lerner will also share why he wrote *The Mossad Messiah* and briefly give us insight into his novel. Rabbi Lerner made extensive research into Israel's ultra-Orthodox community and what their growing presence means for Israel and for all Jews. In addition, he spent his 2012 sabbatical in Jerusalem helping our Israel Religious Action Center's program of "Freedom Rides," to integrate Jerusalem buses, assuring women's right to sit in the front of the bus.



Rabbi Lerner is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Montreal. From the early '70s to the late '80s he was Mount Zion's Senior Rabbi. Currently he is also visiting rabbi at Shir Hadash Firenze and teacher of conversion classes at Beth Hillel Roma.





Fall 2017 Programs

Encountering Judaism

Thursday, September 14, 12:00 p.m. at University of St. Thomas
Conversation with Rabbi Norman Cohen

This session is part one of an eight-part series running through the 2017-2018 academic year titled Encountering Religious and Cultural Traditions: A Series Fostering Religious Literacy and Interreligious Understanding. In this session, Rabbi Cohen will teach about the lived experience of Judaism as well as address some common misconceptions and stereotypes people have of the tradition.

The Oneness of God and the Diversity of Religions: A Muslim Perspective

Monday, October 2, 7:00 PM at Islamic Center of Minnesota
Lecture by Irfan A. Omar, Ph.D.

"The Quranic declaration of the oneness of God (tawhid) comes with a startling revelation that God is the source of - and indeed belongs to - all of creation," claims Irfan A. Omar. "The Qur'an further makes it clear that differences in human societies with respect to culture, language, nationality, gender, and religion (among others) are divinely instituted, and should be seen as a blessing." In this lecture, Professor Omar will explore these and other similar Quranic teachings that implore us to consider the plurality of religions as a necessary foundation for personal, spiritual, and communal growth, as well as for mutual learning.

Encountering Islam

Thursday, October 5, 12:00 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas
Conversation with Shaikha Tamara Gray

This session is part two of an eight-part series running through the 2017-2018 academic year titled Encountering Religious and Cultural Traditions: A Series Fostering Religious Literacy and Interreligious Understanding. In this session, Shaikha Tamara Gray will teach about the lived experience of Islam as well as address some common misconceptions and stereotypes people have of the tradition.

Encountering Contemporary Paganisms

Thursday, October 19, 12:00 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas
Conversation with Murphy Pizza, Ph.D.

This session is part three of an eight-part series running through the 2017-2018 academic year titled Encountering Religious and Cultural Traditions: A Series Fostering Religious Literacy and Interreligious Understanding. In this session, Dr. Murphy Pizza will teach about the lived experience of Contemporary Paganisms, some common misconceptions and stereotypes people have about them, and her recent publication *Paganistan: Contemporary Pagan Community in Minnesota's Twin Cities* (Ashgate, 2014).

The Oneness of God and the Diversity of Religions: A Jewish Perspective

Monday, October 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at Temple Israel

The Rabbi Max A. Shapiro Lecture by

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Ph.D.

One of Judaism's most hallowed claims about the reality of God is what Jews refer to (after its first Hebrew word) as the Sh'ma: "Hear, O Israel, the Eternal is our God, the Eternal is One" (Deut 6:4). Deeply committed to the affirmation of God's oneness, many Jews also share the belief of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) that "diversity of religions is the will of God." In this lecture, Rabbi Sabath Beit-Halachmi will explain why she considers this belief not only compatible with but also demanded by the affirmation of God's oneness.

Encountering Secular Humanism and "Faitheism"

Thursday, November 16, 12:00 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas
Conversation with Chris Stedman

This session is part four of an eight-part series running through the 2017-2018 academic year titled Encountering Religious and Cultural Traditions: A Series Fostering Religious Literacy and Interreligious Understanding. In this session, Chris Stedman will teach about the lived experience of Secular Humanism and address some common misconceptions and stereotypes people have of about it.

For more details about any of these classes, go to

stthomas.edu/jpc

A University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies Lecture

Caroline Light presents:

Jewish Benevolence in the Jim Crow South Thursday, November 30, 7:30 pm at Mount Zion

This talk addresses the complex intersection of benevolence and self-preservation that produced Jewish orphan homes in the Jim Crow South. Whether native or foreign-born, rich or poor, Jewish southerners could not ignore the rigidly defined color line, or the regime of racial terror that reinforced it. Those with the means to do so invested substantial time, energy, and money in an effort to “take care of their own” while transforming the poorest Jewish orphans into exemplars of southern citizenship. *Co-Sponsored by Department of History, University of Minnesota.*



How did Self-Defense turn into Stand Your Ground?

Friday, December 1, following Shabbat services (approximately 7:30 pm) – Human Rights Shabbat
Co-sponsored by Protect Minnesota

This lecture and discussion will be based on Dr. Light’s recent book, *Stand Your Ground: A History of America’s Love Affair with Lethal Self-Defense* (Beacon Press, 2017). This book provides a critical genealogy of armed citizenship. Beginning with the centuries-old adage “a man’s home is his castle,” she tracks the history of our nation’s relationship to lethal self-defense, from the duty to retreat to the “shoot first, ask questions later” ethos that prevails in many jurisdictions today. Her work reveals how contemporary appeals to “stand your ground” mask an exclusionary commitment to security for the few, at the expense of the many.

Caroline Light is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Harvard’s Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She has a doctorate in history, and her work explores the ways in which race, gender, and region shape collective (mis)memory and archival silence.

Also on Friday:

‘Trapped in History’: Collective Memory and Social Justice
Friday, December 1, 12-1pm - CJS Campus talk at 135 Nicholson Hall U of M Campus, Minneapolis

Starting with James Baldwin’s famous assertion, “people are trapped in history and history is trapped in them,” this informal discussion addresses intersections of historiography and justice. I will discuss the complex ways in which contemporary politics frame collective memory while obfuscating the (re)production of power in the stories that take shape as historical “truth.”

Food for Thought

Learn and Nosh before Shabbat Services

5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Food before the Thought

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Food for Thought Discussions

Discussion over wine, juice, and light appetizers.

Child care available.

Friday, September 15



Re-turning:

Learn the Meaning and Music of Essential Prayers



Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein and Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

The prayer book for the High Holy Days is called a “machzor”, a Hebrew word meaning “cycle” and “return”. We return to reflect on our lives. In this “Food for Thought” session, we will read, discuss, and sing a few of the High Holy Day prayers, and discuss the “new” machzor Mishkan Hanefesh to enter the season with more understanding and readiness.



Future Dates and Themes

- October 20 - The Sanctuary Movement
- November 10 - The arts
- December 15 - Our Muslim neighbors
- January 12 - Tzedek
- February 16 - Accessibility and Inclusion
- March 16 - On modern Israeli music
- April 20 - Environmental

BOOKS & BREWS

November 16, 7 p.m. at Bad Weather Brewery

\$30 or \$20 JCC Member Value Price, \$15 for the 30-45 year old crowd!
Visit stpauljcc.org to register.

Imagine drinking a nice cold brew while engaging in intimate conversations with some of the best local authors in the Twin Cities. Our venue, Bad Weather Brewery, offers fun, unique brews in a private space right off the tap room. Whether you love your books, love your beers – or both, this is an event you won’t want to miss!

Featuring:

- Harley Drezner, *Mischegas*
- Miriam Karmel, *Subtle Variations and other stories*
- Susan Sigfried, *Dream Dancer and Lingua Galactica*
- Susan Weinberg, *We Spoke Jewish*



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Saint Paul, MN 55105

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Billy Jonas is coming to Mount Zion!

**Performer, singer-songwriter, composer,
multi-instrumentalist, and educator**

May 4-6, 2018

For 25 years, Billy Jonas has perfected the art of the neo-tribal hootenanny (a gloriously participatory musical gathering, featuring funky folk music, and whatever else seems to fit!) with audiences around the globe. Using voice, guitar, and industrial re-percussion (musical instruments made from found, foraged, and recyclable objects, like pots, pans, tin cans, buckets, keys, and broomsticks), each concert is a soul-spelunking, heart healing, joy-filled journey.

Stay tuned for more details!

