

temple b'nai abraham  
congregational learning 2017-18  
**back to the basics**  
because learning never goes out of style

Congregational learning this year focuses on The Basics, with four special presentations on Jewish History, Theology, Worship and Holidays. The details are easy to get lost in. We must recognize — in fact, celebrate — the big picture, seeing the common thread that unites every aspect of Jewish life.

**Professor David N. Myers**

*President, Center for Jewish History, Professor of Jewish History, UCLA*

**Wednesday, September 6  
7:30 PM**

***All Jewish History in One Hour...Really!***

Professor David Myers, a favorite and frequent TBA speaker, returns this fall to discuss his just-published *Jewish History*, part of the prestigious Oxford University Press "A Very Short Introduction" series. In one hour, Myers takes us on a speedy but substantial journey, allowing us to perceive our history as one, distinct, organic whole. Don't think it's possible? Come see. And learn.

**Professor Steven Cohen**

*Professor of Social Policy at the Hebrew Union College.*

**Wednesday, March 7  
7:30 PM**

In this year's Bloom Lecture, Professor Steven M. Cohen will discuss the ***Shrinking Jewish Middle***, review the good and (more) not-so-good communal responses he has studied, and offer thoughts on what can be done to preserve the health and well-being of Jews in America.

***Supported by the Bloom Family Memorial Lecture Fund***

---

**State of the Garden State**

**Monday, November 13 at 7:30 PM**

*With Mary Alice Williams, Tom Moran and Matt Katz*

What will the November elections mean for the Garden State? Our regular journalist panel of Tom Moran of the *Star Ledger*, Mary Alice Williams of NJTV and Matt Katz of WNYC, will gather right after November 7 to sort it all out. Sharing their thoughts and impressions, they will engage with the audience and each other for an insightful, thoughtful, and even humorous evening.

## History Through Text with Rabbi Kulwin

### The Jewish Religion

When I say "Judaism," I know what I mean, but is that what you mean when you say it? And are either of those the same as what our forebears meant millennia, centuries or even just decades and years ago? Ever since Abraham, Judaism has meandered, twisted and turned, met dead ends in back alleys and sped forward on straightaways, constantly (and perhaps inevitably) evolving.

In these sessions we will explore what Judaism has meant at different times and in different places. Hopefully, the course we chart will not only educate us but lead us to a better personal understanding of what Judaism means to us.

### Judaism of the Bible

Thursday, January 11 & 18, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Rabbinic Judaism

Thursday, January 25, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Judaism Before Modernity

Thursday, February 8, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Liberal Judaism in Germany

Thursday, February 15, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Liberal Judaism in America

Thursday, April 12, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Orthodoxy

Thursday, April 19, 7:00-8:30 PM

### Israeli Judaism

Thursday, May 10, 7:00-8:30 PM

---

## Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Kulwin

Join the lively discussion of legend and lore, the ancient world and the modern one, the Jewish people's feelings about its God, and God's feelings about His people. Through our reading of the weekly portion, and occasional forays into the traditional commentators, we seek not only to understand the profundities of Torah but also to understand the world and ourselves a little better. Parallel English/Hebrew texts will be used. We hope you'll stay for services, but even if you can't, stop by for a weekly dose of Torah! **Every Saturday morning, 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM.**

## Book Group with Rabbi Kulwin

*Eighteen years ago, a group of Temple members, led by Rabbi Kulwin, began reading together. Since then, the members of the TBA Book Group have read over 200 books together. If you like to read, join us! Selections are generally grouped in two or three months of a particular theme. Books are almost always available easily from area libraries, online or at local bookstores. And when they are not, the Temple will secure several copies of the book for us to share.*

---

### Intrigue!

*Murder mysteries and spy thrillers are popular in both America and Israel. These two selections are page turners, fascinating portals into a side of Israeli society we rarely consider and fictional case studies teaching us about real life.*

### ***A Possibility of Violence* by D.A. Mishani**

Thursday, September 7, 7:30 PM

### ***Forbidden Love in St. Petersburg* by Mishka Ben-David**

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 PM

---

### New!

*The last couple of years have been bountiful for readers of Jewish fiction. These four books, by both established and debut authors, have attracted critical and popular acclaim. And deservedly so.*

### ***Moonglow* by Michael Chabon**

Thursday, December 7, 7:30 PM

### ***The Afterlife of Stars* by Joseph Kertes**

Thursday, January 4, 7:30 PM

### ***What to Do About the Solomons* by Bethany Ball**

Thursday, February 1, 7:30 PM

### ***All Grown Up* by Jami Attenberg**

Thursday, March 1, 7:30 PM

---

### Significant!

*Along with David Grossman and A.B. Yehoshua, all three born in Jerusalem, Amos Oz is one of the great Israeli novelists of the last half century. Saul Bellow, along with Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud, is one of the greatest American Jewish novelists of the twentieth century. Early or late, how could a work by either be anything but significant?*

### ***Judas* by Amos Oz**

Thursday, May 3, 7:30 PM

### ***Mr. Sammler's Planet* by Saul Bellow**

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 PM

## Basic Hebrew & Torah Cantillation Classes with Cantor Epstein

### Aleph Isn't Hard!

Tuesday, October 17 & 24 and  
November 7, 14, 21 & 28  
7:00– 7:45 PM

Have you always wanted to learn the Aleph-Bet and become a Hebrew reader? It isn't hard!

Join Cantor Epstein for a 6-part class as we master the letters and vowels. No experience required! A Trope Class will be offered in the Spring, so if you'd like to learn the mitzvah of Torah chanting but can't read, here's where to start.

Class minimum of 8.

### Torah Cantillation Class

Tuesday, March 13, 20 & 27 and April 10, 17 & 24  
7:00-7:45 PM

Are you a Hebrew reader who would like to learn the skill of Torah chanting? It is not that complicated!

Cantor Epstein teaches this 6-part class where you will learn the tropes and techniques for applying cantillation marks to Torah text.

Our class will culminate in participants chanting Torah on Shavuot morning.

Class minimum of 8.



## Rosh Hodesh 5778

### Led by Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

The new moon, or new month, is a special holiday that women celebrate together. Join Sisterhood in a warm atmosphere of sharing, learning and noshing to welcome each new Hebrew month!

**Thursday, December 14, 7:30 PM**

*Rosh Hodesh Tevet–Hanukkah*

**Monday, February 26, 7:30 PM**

*Rosh Hodesh Adar–Hamantaschen Baking Day*

**Thursday, March 15, 7:00 PM**

*Rosh Hodesh Nisan–A Woman's Seder*

**Monday, May 14, 7:30 PM**

*Rosh Hodesh Sivan–Women and Torah*

---

## Monthly Lunch & Learn with

### Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

*Bring your appetite for learning as well as your dairy lunch! Beverages will be provided!*

### Women of the Bible: Supporters, Victims, Leaders, Warriors, Rabble Rousers!

Each month we'll explore women in the Bible (familiar and less-known). Through text-study and discussion, we will delve into themes as old as the Bible and as new as today. *A class for women and men!*

Thursday, October 19, November 16, December 21,  
January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19 & May  
17, 11:30 AM

---

## Civil Rights Journey

with Rabbi Dantowitz

### *Justice Through a Jewish Lens*

Thursday, November 30 through Sunday, December 3.  
Visit Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham—the  
Leo Frank Site, Rosa Parks Museum, Edmund Pettus  
Bridge, 16th Street Baptist Church and other places  
important in the struggle for civil rights.

## BACK TO THE BASICS

### **Wednesday, September 6, 7:30 PM**

Jewish History—All Jewish History in One Hour...*Really!* Led by Professor David N. Myers

### **Tuesday, January 9, 7:30 PM**

Theology—What did our ancestors believe, what do we believe, and how is it all connected? Led by Rabbi Kulwin

### **Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 PM**

Worship—What is the purpose of Jewish Worship and how did it get to be what it is? Led by Cantor Epstein

### **Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 PM**

Holidays—What constitutes a Jewish Holiday and why—if they are—important? Led by Rabbi Dantowitz

---

Temple B'nai Abraham and the Gaalen Center for the Arts at the JCC MetroWest Present a

## **Polyphony String Quartet Concert**

By musicians from The Polyphony Conservatory in Nazareth

**Sunday, October 15**

**3:00—4:30 PM**

*At the Maurice Levin Theater, Leon & Toby Cooperman JCC, West Orange*

Join us for coffee after the concert to meet the musicians and Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar!

Adults: \$20 | Seniors/Students: \$12

Tickets on sale now

Visit [jccmetrowest.org/polyphony-concert](http://jccmetrowest.org/polyphony-concert) or

Contact Mara Miller: 973-530-3479/ [mmiller@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:mmiller@jccmetrowest.org)



Temple B'nai Abraham  
300 East Northfield Road  
Livingston, NJ 07039  
973.994.2290  
[www.tbanj.org](http://www.tbanj.org)