

Temple B'nai Abraham Congregational Learning

Highlights of the Upcoming Year 2018—2019

Congregational Learning at Temple B'nai Abraham provides opportunities for learners of all ages to explore their identities as Jews. Through spiritual, academic and social programs and courses, opportunities for learning bring people together, helping to create a special sense of family and community. Most classes are open to the community and free.

More information and additional programs are at www.tbanj.org. Dates and times are subject to change. To register, go to www.tbanj.org. If you have any questions before registering, please call the Temple office at 973.994.2290.

The State of the Garden State

With Matt Katz, WNYC Reporter
Tom Moran, Star Ledger Editorial Page Editor
Mary Alice Williams, NJTV News Anchor

Thursday, October 25, 7:30 PM

With possible power shifts in both House and Senate, the nation will be riveted on the November 6 election. And with a Senate seat up, all twelve of the State's congressional districts, and scores of municipal elections—including Livingston and Millburn—across New Jersey, it is a big election for the Garden State as well.

Our regular panel of veteran New Jersey journalists returns to discuss the upcoming election and, especially, what it means for New Jersey.

Grounded in the decades of experience each has covering the State, the conversation will abound with knowledge, insight, and plenty of humor. The audience is invited to participate in what will, as always, be an informative, stimulating, and most worthwhile evening.



A Historian Reflects on Israel's Past and Future

Professor David N. Myers

Sadie and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History, UCLA

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 7:30 PM

Israel was founded 70 years ago, but its future is as unknowable today as it was in 1948. Israel's army is the most powerful in the region. Recent governments have sought new strategic alliances, making friends with former enemies and alienating longstanding allies. Its economy is one of the most robust in the world, even as economic disparity widens. The Occupation, majority-minority relations, a serious housing shortage, innumerable matters of "church and state" and other domestic matters fuel ongoing tumult. The struggle to remain both democratic and Jewish grows more and more complex.

What is Israel's future?

Prof. David Myers, a frequent visitor to Temple B'nai Abraham, believes that to understand Israel's future, it is important to understand its past. Author of numerous definitive works on Jewish and Israeli history, and a frequent visitor to Israeli universities and commentator on contemporary Israel, Myers will explore what Israel's history can teach us about its future, both that which we can know, and that for which we hope.

Prof. David Myers has been on the faculty of UCLA since 1991, and has served as both Chair of its Department of History and Director of its Center for Jewish Studies. For the year 2017-2018, Myers was also President of the Center for Jewish History in New York City.

One of his generation's most respected Jewish historians, Myers is the author or editor of fifteen books, has written hundreds of scholarly and popular articles and has lectured at universities throughout North America, as well as in France, Germany, Russia, The Netherlands, and, of course, Israel.

Supported by the Bloom Family Memorial Fund

TBA Book Group with Rabbi Kulwin

Book Group members know that modern Jewish fiction falls mainly into three categories: books about Israel, books about the Holocaust and books about Jewish life in the Diaspora. In our twentieth year, we read works from each: Some are classics and some are new, and some approach their subject in unusual ways.

Israel

Thursday, October 4, 7:30 PM

Esau by Meir Shalev

The Biblical rivalry of Jacob and Esau is the opening through which Shalev, one of Israel's most celebrated novelists, chronicles the multigenerational Levi family, all bakers, from World War I through the mid-seventies. The twins have to share one pair of glasses; quite literally, they are the lens through which the story is told.

Thursday, November 1, 7:30 PM

Sadness Is A White Bird by Moriel Rothman-Zecher

In Rothman-Zecher's debut novel, 17-year-old Israeli American Jonathan returns to Israel, eager to join the army. Waiting for his induction, he becomes friendly with Israeli Arabs Nimreen and Laith, twin children of his mother's best friend. As their friendship deepens, his feeling toward Israel is no less strong, but it is not as simple as it once was.

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 PM

Let It Be Morning by Sayed Kashuah

A young journalist, recently married and a new father, seeks a quieter life away from the city and buys a large house in his parents' hometown, an Arab village in Israel. Reviewers have written that Kashuah, an Israeli Arab who writes in Hebrew, is comparable to Orwell and Kafka in his ability to convey otherworldly futility.

The Holocaust

Thursday, January 3, 7:30 PM

Good People by Nir Baram

Germany and Russia, 1938. In Berlin, Thomas performs market research for an American company, while Sasha, in Leningrad, is an aspiring intellectual. Each has a grand plan, but it doesn't matter. Thomas ends up writing propaganda for the Nazis; Sasha edits confessions from the victims of Stalin's secret police. Then they meet.

Thursday, February 7, 7:30 PM

Maus by Art Spiegelman

Maus was perhaps *the* literary event of 1973. Holocaust literature was still a young genre, yet Spiegelman writes a serious story of the Shoah as a graphic novel, a term then barely in use? After the initial shock, it became clear that *Maus* was a masterpiece. It still is, and its numerous accolades include a Pulitzer Prize.

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 PM

Mischling by Affinity Konar

In 1944, Polish twins Pearl and Stasha are sent to Auschwitz, where they soon become part of Josef Mengele's notorious experiments with twins. Pearl disappears and after liberation by the Red Army, Stasha and Feliks, whose twin had also disappeared, search Poland for their missing siblings. They also seek vengeance on perhaps the most evil doctor in history.

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 PM

The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award, *The Gustav Sonata* begins with the meeting of two five-year-olds, in kindergarten, in a small town in Switzerland just after the war. A lifelong friendship ensues, indelibly marked by what they uncover in their town—and about their families—from before they were born.

The North American Diaspora

Thursday, May 2, 7:30 PM

The Far Euphrates by Aryeh Lev Stollman

Stollman, an academic physician by day, has achieved critical acclaim through his moonlighting as a novelist. Through the story of Alexander, son of a rabbi in Windsor, Ontario, *The Far Euphrates* is what *The Times* called an exploration of our effort to "solve for ourselves the riddle of God's existence and cultivate a sense of mercy in an unforgiving age."

Thursday, June 6, 7:30 PM

American Pastoral by Philip Roth

Given our common Newark roots and Roth's undisputed seat in the pantheon of great American authors, it is no surprise that the TBA Book Group has read him more than any other author. *American Pastoral* traces the life of Swede Levov, Weequahic athlete turned successful businessman, through whom we witness the impact of the 1960s on American society and gain a greater, if sadder, understanding of how little we can know about what goes on inside others.



Rosh Hodesh 5779 Led by Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

Sponsored by Sisterhood—The Women's Connection

Rosh Hodesh is the celebration of the new Hebrew month and is a special time for women. Sisterhood—The Women's Connection welcomes all women to join in an evening of learning, warmth, and spiritual growth. The Spring Rosh Hodesh event features a Women's Seder before Passover. Join us each or any month and feel the sisterhood connection.

Rosh Hodesh :

Thursday October 11, 7:30 PM, Heshvan

Monday, December 10, 7:30 PM, Tevet

Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 PM, Shevat

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 PM, Adar I

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 PM, Nisan – Women's Seder

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 PM, Lag B'Omer

Myths, Legends and Magic in Judaism with Cantor Jessica F. Epstein

Golems, Lilith and Hamsas, oh my! This class will explore some of the most famous legendary creatures, people and stories in the folk tradition of Judaism. From Biblical amulet bowls to Gan Eden, we will read and delve deep into mysteries often heard of but never explained. No Hebrew required and open to all.

Thursdays, November 8, 15 & 29, 7:00 PM

Monthly Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

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

Love, Lust and Power: David, The Biblical character
Study the Books of Samuel and learn about David and his relationships. Through this exploration we will delve into the themes of love, lust, power and friendship. Bring your own lunch.

**Thursdays, October 25, November 29 &
December 20, 2018; January 24, February 28,
March 28, April 25 & May 23, 2019, 11:30 AM**

History Through Text with Rabbi Kulwin

Jews, Art and Jewish Art

The Ten Commandments insist that we are not to make graven images. Nevertheless, graphic arts—to say nothing of music, literature and other artistic forms—have long been associated with Jews and Jewish life. The Torah itself contains prose and poetry of unparalleled beauty; a Renaissance rabbi “proved” that all orchestra instruments were found in the Bible; and Marc Chagall is on anyone's list of the greatest painters of the 20th Century.

We will examine Jewish writings about art, and works of art themselves, to try to understand Judaism's historic relationship with art, and the prominence art enjoys in Jewish life today.

Thursday, January 10, 7:30 PM

Art and the Torah—The Torah contains texts about art, and many believe it is a work of art itself. We will look at both perspectives.

Thursday, February 28, 7:30 PM

Art and the Rabbis—Through the reading of Talmudic texts, we will learn about the unease the rabbis felt about art, even as many of them yet had a sense of aesthetic appreciation.

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 PM

Art and the Jewish Renaissance—Especially in Italy, Jews caught the Renaissance spirit, mining their own past for early examples of the most admired civic culture of the day.

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 PM

Jews and Music—Liturgical music, folk music, Mahler, Schoenberg, Copland...what makes it Jewish music?

Thursday, May 16

Jews and Painting—Jewish themes, like Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac, have long been subjects of the greatest western artists; many of those great artists were Jews. How did this happen?

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 PM

Art and the Holocaust—From before the war, from the camps, and certainly since, the Holocaust has inspired artistic works beyond number. Does this say something about the importance of art to the Jew?



2018 Family Mission to Israel

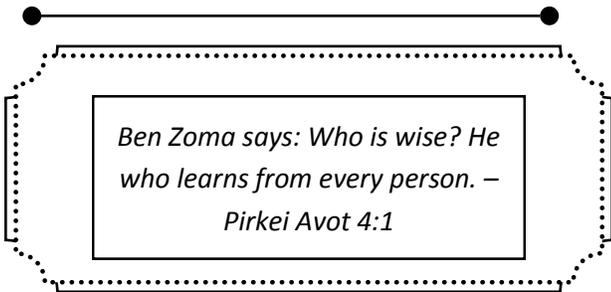
TBA Goes to Israel....

December 22, 2018—January 1, 2019

Mindy & Greg Scheier, Chairs

With Rabbi Kulwin

Contact Rabbi Kulwin for Information



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.



Kulwin’s Lakeside Sukkahfest At Temple B’nai Abraham

Sunday, September 23, 2018

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Come Lounge By The Lake, Nosh A Little, Do Some Fishing (Yeah Really), Play Games, Enjoy Some Arts & Crafts And A Magic Show

Please Bring A Canned Food Item For Donation

RSVP To The JLP Office bsmall@tbanj.org



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