



SISTERHOOD ROSH HODESH STUDY GROUP

All sessions are open to the entire TBH-BE community and will be held at the synagogue

Brunch and Learn, December 16th and March 17th (Topics TBA)

Dessert and Learn, January 19th and May 17th (Topics TBA)

Debra Zweben, Coordinator

TORATHON - *Saturday, January 23, 2010*

This event offers an enticing mix of Jewish Philadelphia's finest scholars and leaders with three one-hour sessions of mini-courses on diverse topics that challenge the intellect and connect participants to Jewish religion, culture, and contemporary issues. Capping off the Torathon is musical entertainment. Watch for details.

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

The Sisterhood Book Club meets four times a year and is held in women's homes on Wednesdays at 12 noon. Lunch is provided. The annual cost to join is \$15.00 for Sisterhood members and \$20.00 for non-members.

Sept. 9 - *Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich (Home of Ellen Siegel)

Nov 18 - *The Guernsey Library and Potatoe Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer (site TBD)

April 14 - *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls (site TBD)

May 26 - *West With The Night* by Beryl Markham (site TBD)

Coordinators: Ellen Siegel, Claire Sachs, Sandy Clair



SAVE THE DATE

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

December 4 and 5, 2009




INTRODUCTION


Throughout the year, Temple Beth Hillel - Beth El offers a variety of learning opportunities. Because we are blessed with so much talent within our membership, our mini-courses are often taught by rabbis and scholars who are members of our synagogue. Generally these mini-courses are for three sessions. We also offer courses that extend over the course of the year, including a Shabbat morning course taught by Rabbi Cooper. Other year-long courses coincide with religious school hours and are open to all, whether or not participants have students in our religious school.

Several other programs are being offered under the rubric of holiday learning, Sisterhood, Men's Club, the Israel Advocacy Committee, the Torathon Committee, and the Holocaust Memorial Program Committee. There are also community based programs, such as the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. More information about all of these programs can be found within the pages of this booklet.

Unless otherwise noted, all courses and programs will be held at Temple Beth Hillel -Beth El. Specific locations of classes will be posted. Many courses and events will require registration. Please see the contact information for the program you are interested in signing up for immediately following the course description. Fees, if any, may be found out by contacting the sponsoring organization listed. If no specific group is listed, registration is through the Religious School Office at 610-896-8507.

Our Adult Education learning opportunities are proudly sponsored by our Adult Education Committee, chaired by Adam Soll and Josh Davison, other committees as noted, and supported by our synagogue's Irwin Ship Fund. No formal Jewish education background is necessary to participate in any of our classes, unless specifically noted. ALL are welcome to come and learn. If you have any questions regarding the courses, programs, or events included in this brochure, please contact our Educational Director, Rabbi Leah Richman at 610-896-8507 X128, or at LRichman@tbhbe.org





Adult Learning Series

MELTON

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a comprehensive, sophisticated, pluralistic, serious, text-based program of adult Jewish study. It is university-level without the requirements. One of the many goals of this two-year course of study is to create more Jewishly literate people who form, and stay in, a community of learners.

Students enroll in a sequential two-year course developed specifically for adult learners. Classes are held one day a week for 30 weeks and feature an interactive examination and discussion of classical and modern Jewish texts relevant to the themes of the week.

All Jewish backgrounds are welcome and encouraged, and no knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Generous scholarship assistance is available.

For more information about or to enroll in Melton, contact Melton Director Liz Nover, 215-635-7300 x 143 or lnover@gratz.edu.

Registration Required

ADULT EDUCATION WITH SARA COHEN

New Class! *Learn while your children are in religious school!*

Enhancing your Jewish Home Wednesdays 4:30-6:00

Learn about basic Jewish practices and values, to make Judaism “come alive” for you and your family. The “why” and “how-to” and basic Hebrew language skills will be taught that will enrich your lives and allow you to feel comfortable and knowledgeable, Jewishly.

Continuing Classes:

Tefillah

This class will help you become literate with the Shabbat and Holiday Service and feel comfortable at services. The course will focus on an in-depth study of the text of the synagogue-the siddur.

Great Biblical Personalities

This course will examine the heroes and heroines of our tradition, with texts taken from the Tanakh. We will discuss their life and times, contributions to Judaism and world civilization, and their impact today.

Times TBA. Registration Required. Classes will run from November– April

ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Meet for one year on Sunday mornings with Rabbi Cooper

Learn Basic Jewish Skills and Concepts

Additional Hebrew component required for those new to Hebrew letters

Program is culminated with a beautiful ceremony on a Shabbat morning

We need a minimum of 10 people for this class and would like to start in the fall. Please express your interest to Rabbi Leah Richman 610-896-8507 or LRichman@tbhbe.org



ONE BOOK ONE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Kick-off Event, Sunday, October 18, 2009 7:00 pm

Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA

One Book, One Jewish Community: Connecting People One Book at a Time, is an exciting initiative supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, designed to bring the Greater Philadelphia Jewish Community together through shared conversations, discussions and events stimulated by a selected book and related themes. Synagogues, agencies and other Jewish institutions will adopt the selected book as a vehicle for conversation, sharing and celebrating not only the book itself, but also the values and issues raised in the story. The 2009-2010 Feature Selection is *All Other Nights* by Dara Horn.

ONE BOOK ONE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Veteran's Day Program - Wednesday, November 11th 8:00pm

As part of our participation in the Jewish Federation's One Book One Jewish Community initiative, we will be observing Veteran's Day by having a veteran speak about his experience. We would also like to identify all of the Jewish War Veterans in our congregation. If you are a veteran, please email Rabbi Leah Richman at richman@tbhbe.org with your information so you will be included. The book chosen for this year is Dara Horn's “On All Other Nights” and is available in the office at the discounted price of \$15. This book, a historical novel about a Jewish man who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, raises interesting questions about identity and loyalty. While all are encouraged to read the book, it is not necessary to read this book to attend the program.

MEN'S CLUB BRUNCH AND LEARN

All sessions are open to the entire TBH-BE community and will be held at the synagogue

November 15th with Rabbi Cooper (Topic TBA)

March 7th with Cantor Rosner (Topic TBA)

WORLD WIDE WRAP AND ANNUAL SILVER CIRCLE AWARD

Sunday, January 31, 2010 9:00am

Sponsored by the Men's Club

Join the Men's Club for this annual program to teach the mitzvah of tefillin, followed by brunch.



Other Programs

ISRAEL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS: ISRAEL/DOCUMENTARY FILMS AT TBH-BE

The Israel Advocacy Committee is gearing up for a busy and engaging year of programming and activities. We are continuing with our annual Sunday morning documentary film (and bagel) series, and will open the year with a special prize winning film which we are co-hosting with Sisterhood on November 8. The film, *No. 4 Street of Our Lady*, is a documentary film chronicling the selfless actions of a Polish Catholic woman who risked it all to save 15 Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust. The event will also feature Judy Maltz, the director/producer/editor of the film as well as the daughter/granddaughter of hidden survivors.

Other films we will be showing are:

Altalena (the story of Ben Gurion's military ordering of the firing on the ship Altalena which arrived in Israel carrying 930 World War II refugees, almost sparking a civil war)

Living for Tomorrow: Untold Stories by the Pioneering Women of Israel

I am Joseph Your Brother (Pope John Paul II's 1980 visit to Israel and its aftermath)

Jerusalem: Center of the World (PBS production)

The Third Jihad (Radical Islam's Vision for America)

The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost (based on Alan Dershowitz's book)

We are also looking to bring several prominent speakers and collaborative programs.

And always, be an ambassador for Israel and be sure to do something good for Israel today - and everyday. We welcome suggestions for program ideas.

Lee Bender, Chairman, Israel Advocacy Committee

JUDAISM IN THE JEWISH STATE-

Yearning for the Separation of Religion and Politics

Rabbi Andrew Sacks

As Israel struggles to find a religious identity, politics often is a determining factor. Will the color of religion be Black (that is Ultra-Orthodox) or rainbow colored (pluralistic). Who will decide how "Jewish" Israel shall be and what will this look like in the years ahead?

Rabbi Sacks will take a look at the conflict between religion and politics and possible ways of transformation.

Rabbi Andrew Sacks made Aliyah from the Philadelphia area in 1987. Since that time he has been a leading voice on behalf of religious pluralism and tolerance in Israel. He serves as the director of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel, the organization of Masorti/Conservative rabbis. He is also the leading expert of issues relating to conversion, Aliyah, and religious rights in Israel. His blog may be found at <http://cgis.jpost.com/Blogs/conservative/>

Wednesday, September 30 8:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: Registration and payment of the \$36 Adult Ed fee required for all Mini-Series (unless otherwise noted.)



Adult Mini-Series

JEWIS AND JUDAISM:

HOW ARE THEY DEPICTED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Starting from the "Jewish" Book of Matthew through the Book of Revelations, what does the text tell us about early Christianity's view of its "parent religion?"

Morrie Zacher

Tuesdays, October 13, 20 and 27 8:00 – 9:30pm

BIO MEDICAL ETHICS

This class will engage participants in discussions about Jewish decision making. Through examining hypothetical ethical dilemmas, we will discuss how Jewish ethical decisions are made and help participants plan for the future.

Rabbi Todd Zeff

November 2, 10 and 17 8:00 -9:00pm

LEAVING AFTER LIVING- LIVING AFTER LEAVING

Jewish Theology is not normative when it comes to belief in God. Jews have accepted numerous positions which range from the traditional to the revolutionary. So too with regard to our beliefs regarding death and life after death. What have been the classical Jewish beliefs? What do we believe about dying, life after death, the eternity of the soul and even reincarnation?

In this three session class Rabbi Cooper will explore relevant rabbinic, mystical and Hasidic texts about these issues. Through discussion, participants may not only come to better understand traditional positions but be better prepared to articulate their own beliefs regarding these matters which occupy our thoughts throughout our lives.

Rabbi Neil Cooper

Sundays, October 18 and 25 and November 8 9:45 – 11:00 am

SHINING VARIOUS LIGHTS ON HANUKKAH

The rituals and significance of Hannukah have generated discussions among rabbis, historians, and the average Jew on the December street. Following their leads, these three sessions will be devoted to looking at three different dimensions of Hanukkah: Halachic, historical, and spiritual.

Rabbi Ben Richman

Tuesdays, November 24, December 1 and 8

8:00 - 9:00 pm



“THE CHUMASH AS A POLITICAL DOCUMENT”

(aka “Dueling Chumashes”)

There are several standard synagogue chumashim (Torah text + commentary books) meant for following and studying the weekly Torah portion. Each proceeds from a set of assumptions, assertions and preferences, and each arises out of a specific time and place. Each Chumash has an implicit, and often explicit, “political” as well as “religious” agenda.

In this course we will look at several provocative Torah passages and compare the commentaries on those passages as found in four versions of the Chumash, as well as look at the larger questions of what kind of real and desired Jewish communities do these books reflect? How does the period in which a Chumash is developed influence the commentaries and perspectives?

We’ll work from the classic “Hertz Humash” of the 1930s; The Reform “Plaut Commentary” of the 1980s; The Conservative “Etz Hayim” of 2000; and the 2008 “The Torah – A Women’s Commentary” from the Reform movement.

All texts will be provided with English translation and commentary.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch

Wednesdays, April 14, 21 and 28 8:00 - 9:30pm

Holiday and Shabbat Programs

MISHNAH YOMIT

Every Shabbat morning prior to Shabbat services, Rabbi Cooper leads our study of daily Mishna. Beginners welcome!

SELICHOT PROGRAM AND DESSERT RECEPTION

Saturday Evening, September 12, 2009

8:30 pm Program - “Jewish Calcutta Through Music and Memory”

10:30 pm Dessert Reception

11:00 pm Selichot Services

Please join us as we usher in the High Holiday season with a special Selichot Program featuring award-winning journalist, singer, speaker and educator, Rahel Musleah.

Rahel’s program weaves a rich tapestry of heritage and culture and memory of the Indian Jewish community whose population has dwindled to just 5,000 today.

The Selichot service will begin after a dessert reception.



A LUNCHEON DISCUSSION SERIES

with Rabbi Neil Cooper to be held in Center City and Bala Cynwyd

Join Rabbi Cooper and TBHBE members and friends in an informal and relaxed setting, for a presentation and discussion of the meaning of the High Holidays and Sukkot. Together we will go beyond the ritual and explore the deeper meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and gain a greater understanding of the High Holiday services. For locations or questions contact Len Cohen (len@lenardcohen.com 215-765-8181) or Adam Soll (asoll@soll-law.com; 215-731-1840)

September 16, 30, and October 7 12:15-1:30pm

SUKKOT LUNCH ‘N LEARN

Sh'mini Atzeret: a Conclusion or a Beginning?

Presented by Adena Potok

Sh'mini Atzeret, or the “Eighth Day of Gathering” is its own holiday which immediately follows and extends the 7 day festival of Sukkot. It is considered the closing day of the high holiday season of Repentance and is also the day on which we recite the annual prayer for rain during morning services. Adena will examine this holiday and focus on the following questions: Why do we ask that it should rain on our parade? And what - if anything - does that have to do with concluding the season of Repentance?

Saturday, October 10th in the Sukkah(weather permitting) following services.

ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Please join our congregation as we observe Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). The program will include congregational participation in readings and candle lighting, choral pieces performed by the Hazzan and Choir, survivors’ stories and creative writings by some of our Hebrew High School students.

*Monday, April 12 Congregational Minyan : 6:45 pm
Program: 7:00 - 8:30 pm*

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT – Tuesday, May 18th

Continue the tradition of late night study on this festival of receiving the Torah. Various sessions will be offered for teens and adults.