

MIRIAM & MOSES CENTER FOR PLURALISTIC ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

2025–2026 Course Guide

TUESDAY NIGHT SYMPOSIUM

The History of Antisemitism

Tuesdays, September 2–December 16, 7–8:30 p.m. (13 sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Fee: \$50 (members); \$100 (not-yet members)

Rabbi Stoller will lead us in exploring “the world’s oldest hatred” from antiquity to the present day. Over the course of the semester, we will examine primary sources from ancient Rome, early Christianity, Islamic literature, Chaucer, the Enlightenment, Wagner, Nazism, post-Holocaust philosophy, and present-day anti-Zionism. Participants will be invited to read additional material outside of class to deepen understanding and enhance in-class discussions. The course will feature guest presentations by JTS Professor Benjamin Gampel on antisemitism in medieval Spain, and ADL analyst Tzivia Appleman on the antisemitic lineage of anti-Zionism.

The Thought and Works of Maimonides

Tuesdays, January 6–May 19, 7–8:30 p.m. (13 sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Fee: \$50 (members); \$100 (not-yet members)

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (1138–1204), also known as Maimonides or Rambam, is widely recognized as one of the most prolific and important Jewish scholars of all time. In this semester-long course, we will study Maimonides’ key ideas and major works, including the 13 Principles of Faith, his comprehensive law code *Mishneh Torah*, the philosophical masterwork *Guide of the Perplexed*, and his letters on apostasy and conversion. Participants will be invited to read additional material outside of class to deepen understanding and enhance in-class discussions.

TORAH STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Instructors: Rabbi Brian Stoller and Rabbi Megan Brumer

The classical commentators, Jewish history, modern thought, current events, and our own personal experiences intersect each week as our clergy lead us in thought-provoking, in-depth conversation about Judaism’s most sacred book.

NEW! North Shore Towers: Coffee & Conversation with Rabbi Stoller

Thursdays (monthly), 1–2 p.m.

Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 16, May 14

Join Rabbi Stoller once a month at North Shore Towers for coffee, snacks, and conversation about current events in Israel and the U.S. and other Jewish issues of the day. All North Shore Towers residents are welcome.

Holy Spirits: Men's Dinner & Discussion Group

July 17, Oct. 23, Jan. 8, Mar. 19, May 14, 7-9 p.m.

Rabbi Stoller will lead conversations on topics of interest to men of all ages.

Dinner and spirits sponsored by Brotherhood

Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.

North Country Reform Temple, Glen Cove

Our consortium of local Reform synagogues will gather on Erev Shavuot for an evening of Torah study, taught by an array of rabbis and cantors.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SHABBATOT

RABBI ELLIE SHEMTOV

Founder, Beit Yoseph Recovery Community

Sponsored by Rabbi Laurie Gold & Nancy Killian

A Sicker Is a Goy: Addiction in the Jewish Community

Friday, September 12, 7 p.m.

Through her own life story, Rabbi Shemtov will discuss substance-use disorder and its impact on the Jewish community, as well as what Torah and our sages have had to say about alcohol.

Themes of Recovery and the 12 Steps of Jewish Liturgy

Saturday, September 13, 7 p.m.

From Psalms to the Amidah, the Shema, and beyond, Jewish prayer contains three core elements—praise, petition, and thanks. Rabbi Shemtov will explore how these three core elements correspond to the basic underpinnings of the 12 Steps.

MARC PALMIERI—PIKUACH NEFESH SHABBAT

Author of *She Danced with Lightning: My Daughter's Struggle with Epilepsy and Her Boundless Will to Live*

Sponsored by Sharon Freeman & Michael Freeman

On Daughters, Storms, and Second Chances

Friday, October 24, 7 p.m.

Marc Palmieri will discuss what his child taught him during her decade-long battle with severe epilepsy.

DR. ELSIE STERN

Professor of Bible, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Sponsored by Cindy & Adam Bender

Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin and His Legacy in Reform Judaism Today

Friday, November 7, 7 p.m.

Much has changed in American liberal Judaism since Rabbi Rudin's time at Beth-El. However, the pillars of his rabbinate—social justice, interfaith work, and his belief in the power of language—continue to shape contemporary liberal Judaism. Dr. Stern, who is Rabbi Rudin's granddaughter, will reflect on his legacy and how it animates American Judaism today.

**Torah Study: Parashat Vayera Through the Lens of the New CCAR Torah Commentary
Saturday, November 8, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

Dr. Stern will lead us in exploring this week's parashah through the lens of the new CCAR Torah Commentary. Come and experience the commentary's content and approach and share your feedback.

**Lunch & Learn: What Will Be in the New CCAR Torah Commentary?
Saturday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Dr. Stern will talk about why the Reform rabbis' association decided to produce a new Torah translation and commentary and will share the features that make it distinctive.

RABBI MICAH STREIFFER
Founder, Laasok, Online *Beit Midrash*

**Torah Study: Did We All Really Stand at Sinai?
Saturday, February 7, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

Rabbi Streiffer will lead us in exploring ancient and modern Midrash about which voices are and are not included at Sinai, and we will ask what it means to build a Judaism that speaks for us all.

RABBI DR. GARY ZOLA
Executive Director Emeritus, American Jewish Archives
Sponsored by Susan & David Weiss-Horowitz

**The Past Is Prologue: Temple Beth-El and the American Jewish Experience
Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.**

As we write the next chapter of Temple Beth-El's great story, our challenge is to innovate while also honoring our venerable past. Dr. Zola, a historian of American Reform Judaism, will reflect on how TBE's unique history, character, and reputation for leadership are keys to a vibrant and exciting future.

**Torah Study: The Jews Who Came to New Amsterdam
Saturday, March 14, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

We will explore the amazing saga of how the very first Jewish settlers in North America established new patterns of Jewish life that have characterized the American Jewish experience ever since.

Lunch & Learn: He Was One of Us—American Jewry's Relationship with Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

As Passover approaches, we will learn about the remarkable history linking American Jewry with America's Great Emancipator. Dr. Zola, author of the acclaimed book *We Called Him Rabbi Abraham*, will explain why many of Lincoln's personal and professional qualities have led American Jews to embrace the 16th president as a man who possessed a Jewish soul.

RABBI MARY ZAMORE**Executive Director, Women's Rabbinic Network***Sponsored by Nina Koppelman***The Ongoing Revolution of Women in the Rabbinate****Friday, May 1, 7 p.m.**

Gender egalitarianism is a core value of Reform Judaism, which became the first movement to ordain women as rabbis. Rabbi Zamore will explore the unique contributions of the pioneering women who changed the Reform community for the better and the challenges women rabbis continue to face in achieving full professional equality with their male colleagues.

DR. GWYNN KESSLER—PRIDE SHABBAT**Associate Professor of Religion, Swarthmore College***Sponsored by Lea & Sandy Caplan***Grasshoppers and Angels—The Past and Future of LGBTQ Jews****Friday, June 12, 7 p.m.**

Dr. Kessler, our scholar-in-residence for Pride Shabbat, will survey the past 50 years of LGBTQ engagement with Jewish text and rituals, and look toward the future of our ongoing contributions and challenges.

Torah Study: Reading Midrash As/Like an LGBTQ Person**Saturday, June 13, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

The ancient rabbis depict the first human (Adam) and the first ancestors of Israel (Abraham and Sarah) as gender nonconforming. Joseph wears high heels and eye makeup, Mordechai breastfeeds Esther, Dinah is conceived as male but born female, and Moses is portrayed as both God's wife and as God's husband. Dr. Kessler will lead us in exploring Midrashic traditions about biblical figures that provide connections between classical rabbinic sources and LGBTQ identities.

Lunch & Learn: Beyond Male and Female—Rabbinic Constructions of Gender**Saturday, June 13, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Although the Tanakh depicts sex/gender as binary, confined to the categories man/male and woman/female, early rabbinic sources already found these categories too limited to express the variety of gendered embodiments. We will explore rabbinic traditions about the nonbinary categories of "tumtum" and "androgynos" and learn how they developed over time.

ISRAEL & HEBREW**Beginning Adult Conversational Hebrew****Tuesdays, September 9–November 25, 6–6:50 p.m. (6 sessions)****Instructors: Joanne Davis and Danna Sobiecki****Fee: \$25 (members only)**

Join this fun, no-pressure class designed for absolute beginners with no tests and no homework—just good vibes and great conversation. Learn useful phrases, practice speaking in a relaxed setting, and gain confidence with the basics.

Field Trip: Bari Weiss at the Tilles Center

Thursday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$34.50

The Israel Committee is leading a field trip to the Tilles Center for an evening with Bari Weiss, founder and editor of *The Free Press*, host of the *Honestly* podcast, and author of *How to Fight Antisemitism*.

LET'S TALK ABOUT ISRAEL

In the post-October 7 world, American Jewish life is more intimately bound up with Israel and Zionism than ever. In this speaker series, we will hear a variety of perspectives on current events in Israel and explore our personal beliefs about Israeli politics, Jewish peoplehood, and the role of the State of Israel in the world today.

Yaakov Katz

Author of *While Israel Slept: How Hamas Surprised the Most Powerful Military in the Middle East*

Wednesday, October 22, 7–9 p.m.

Sponsored by the Gold Coast Arts Center

Rabbi David Ingber

Founding Rabbi, Romemu Congregation

Sunday, January 11, 10–11 a.m.

Sponsored by Nina Koppelman

Rachel Korazim

Israeli Poet and Author

Sunday, February 8, 10–11 a.m.

Sponsored by Dorothy & Ed Greenbaum

Rabbis Meir & Tara Feldman

Rabbis Emeriti, Temple Beth-El

Sunday, March 8, 10–11 a.m.

Sponsored by Debbie & Stuart Lempert

Rabbi Evan Schultz

Author of *Morning, Noon, and Night: Poetry in the Language of Jewish Time*

Sunday, April 19, 10–11 a.m.

Sponsored by Nina Koppelman

Rabbis Meir & Tara Feldman

Rabbis Emeriti, Temple Beth-El

Sunday, May 31, 10–11 a.m.

Sponsored by Debbie & Stuart Lempert

AGING IN PLACE: LIVING WELL AT HOME THROUGHOUT LIFE

Accountable Aging

Speaker: Sara Meyers, Certified Elder Law Attorney

Wednesday, November 5, 10–11 a.m.

Learn how to get your legal affairs in order, create a solid estate plan, and protect your assets from the high costs of long-term care.

Senior Scams and Prevention

Speaker: Erica Zimmerman, Nassau Country Senior Assistant District Attorney, Major Financial Frauds Bureau

Wednesday, April 29, 10–11 a.m.

Stay one step ahead of scammers by gaining crucial insights on how to spot, avoid, and defend against the growing threat of elder fraud.

Home Base—Practical Strategies to Age Safely in Your Home

Speakers: Joanna Stolove, Geriatric Social Worker, and Chari Biton, Director of Services for Aging, Town of North Hempstead

Wednesday, May 27, 10–11 a.m.

Our expert panel will help you turn your home into a haven as they share how to stay safe and supported with vital community resources, smart home modifications, and transportation options through Project Independence.

ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE

Hidden Treasures: A Tour of Temple Beth-El's Arts and Judaica Collection

Wednesday, September 17, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Guide: Regina Gil, Gold Coast Arts Center

Sponsored by the Susan Stumer Cultural Arts Fund

NYC Field Trip: A Tour of the Jewish Theological Seminary Rare Book Collection

Thursday, October 16, 10–11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. David Kraemer, JTS Library Director

Sponsored by Nina Koppelman

Dr. David Kraemer will give participants a glimpse into some of the great moments of our past via a “tour” of The Jewish Theological Seminary Library, which contains one of the most outstanding collections of rare Judaica in the world. The works testify to the tenacity and vibrancy of Judaism in its many homes through the centuries.

How to Chant Torah 1.0: Learning Trope

Sundays, October 26–December 14, 12–1 p.m. (4 sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Megan Brumer

Join Rabbi Megan to learn the melodies and patterns of Torah chanting. Whether you're new to trope or looking to strengthen your skills, this class is for you—and no Hebrew knowledge is needed.

Lolita at Leonard's of Great Neck and Other Stories from the Before Times: A Dialogue with Author Shira Dicker

Sunday, December 7, 10–11 a.m.

Moderator: Len Schiff

Tickets: \$18 (includes the book)

Sponsored by Nina Koppelman

Queens native Shira Dicker will take us on an intimate, uniquely Jewish journey from 1974 through the first decade of the new millennium as her characters wrestle with identity, independence, ambition, sexuality, faith, and love.

Rabbinic Literature 101 (A Laasok Online *Beit Midrash* Series)

Thursdays, January 8–February 26, 3–4:15 p.m.

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Register at laasok.org

In this seven-session course, we will survey the classics of rabbinic literature from late antiquity through the Middle Ages. Participants will gain basic familiarity with key rabbinic sources—such as Midrash, Talmud, biblical commentary, law codes, and philosophy—including a general understanding of what they are, the historical contexts in which they were produced, their basic literary features, and how to find and navigate them on Sefaria.

“And You Shall Be a Blessing”: The Music and Legacy of Debbie Friedman

Wednesdays, January 21–February 4, 6–7 p.m. (3 sessions)

Instructor: Cantorial Soloist Stephanie Horowitz-Mulry

Beginning in the 1970s, Debbie Friedman ushered in a new wave of contemporary Jewish worship music. Through learning her history and singing her music, we will explore how she brought healing, feminism, and folk music into the synagogue, making our worship more personal, participatory, and powerful.

How to Chant Torah 2.0: Putting It to Text

Sundays, March 8–29, 12–1 p.m. (3 sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Megan Brumer

Take your chanting to the next level in Trope 2.0, as you apply what you’ve learned by working directly with Torah text, building confidence, and fluency.

Hasidic Society: Anthropology of an Under-Studied NYC Subculture

Thursday, March 26, 7–8 p.m.

Speaker: Frieda Vizel, Jewish YouTuber and Tour Guide

Frieda Vizel, the host of a lively YouTube channel focusing on Hasidic culture and one of Brooklyn’s best-known Jewish tour guides, will share her story of living in the Satmar community until age 25— and provide insights into the mysterious and fascinating world of New York’s Hasidic Jews.