



FEBRUARY 2, 2019

7:00 AT TALMUD TORAH OF ST. PAUL

SESSION ONE 7:30-8:30 PM

Anti-Semitism in Minnesota with *Steve Hunegs, Executive Director JCRC, Minnesota and the Dakotas* Our daily news cycle is filled with Anti-Semitic hate speech and reported incidents of violence, vandalism, and fear. Is this a change in frequency or in reporting? How might we respond in effective ways?

The Making of a Murderer: Investigating the first murder in the Torah with *Rabbi Micah Miller, Temple of Aaron* Through an examination of Torah text, classical rabbinical works, and modern interpretations we will try to crack this age-old case to determine the murderer's motive.

Jews and Classical Music with *Amir Kats, director/conductor of the St. Paul JCC Symphony Orchestra, Conductor of the Roseville String Ensemble*. What was the experience of Jewish composers who wrote Western art (classical) music? What part did anti-Semitism play? What is the role of Jews in classical music today?

Disruptive Jewish Innovators and Their Extraordinary / Outrageous Jewish Journeys with *Jim Stein, retired attorney, communal leader, author*. Come and be inspired by these leaders who shake up the old paradigms and staid

ways of traditional Jewish thinking, seeing that meaningful innovation is possible.

Rabbi Akiva, his Daughter and the Astrologers with *Rabbi David Thomas, Rabbi Emeritus, Beth El Congregation, Sudbury, MA* Study a Talmudic story that offers insight into the question of free will vs. predetermination. Is our future determined? What would you do if you knew the day of your death?

Democracy Under Stress; Israel Goes to the Polls with Dr. Arie Zmora, Talmud Torah of St. Paul. This session will give an overview of the upcoming April 9th snap election in Israel. In addition to corruption charges and major upheavals in the political parties; concerns facing the electorate including the security challenges, tensions with the settler movement, and the social and economic distress faced by growing sectors of the population.

Women's Voices Emerge: Stories from the Cairo Geniza with *Rachel Richman, Ph.D. Student at Princeton University*. Learn about the Cairo Geniza in general, and take a closer look at some of the amazing women whose lives are revealed in these documents of daily life from the medieval Jewish community of Cairo.

Give your Body a L'Chayim! with *Shira Schwartz* Come experience the latest in Israeli musical culture and get a fun, healthy fitness work-out at a SABABA ("Zumba-esque"!) dance session. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for cardio dance.

Sacred Jewish Chanting with *Cantor Audrey Abrams, Beth El Synagogue*. Singing is known to release endorphins (natural happiness) into our bodies. The repetitiveness of chant causes vibrations and unique energy. Join us for an experience that is heart opening and spiritually healing – even if you think you can't sing!

SESSION TWO 8:35-9:35 PM

The Bible in Translation with *Daniel Picus, Robert A. Oden, Jr. Postdoctoral Fellow for Innovation in the Humanities and Judaism, Carleton College,*

Translations are dicey and can lead to changes in nuance and in meaning. We will survey some of the most interesting biblical translations, from the earliest Greek translations to present day translations.

Boi Legani – Come into my Garden with *Rabbi Arielle Lekach-Rosenberg, Shir Tikvah.* Explore and deepen your relationship with Shabbat through piyyutim (liturgical poetry) and melodies from around the world. This workshop will be experiential and full of song – a chance to walk together in the garden of Shabbat.

Holocaust Denial and the Logic of Conspiracy Theory with *Bruno Chaouat, U of MN* From the Dreyfus Affair to the idea that Soros is the puppet master of international politics, via Holocaust denial and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, we will explore the relationship between conspiracy theory and Antisemitism.

Rachel's Fertility Struggle: Emotional Challenges, Marital Discord, and Medical and Natural Interventions with *Dalia Davis, founder and president of Uprooted: A Jewish Response to Fertility Journeys.* Struggling to grow one's family is a challenge that dates back to biblical times with emotional and spiritual themes that carry deep contemporary relevance. Explore Rachel's fertility journey through ancient and modern texts, delving into the universal spiritual issues that it raises.

Jewish Arts in Transition with *David Jordan Harris, Executive Director, Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council* What are new directions in the Jewish arts today, and how do they reflect a Jewish community in flux? Who is making the work, and where do you find it?

Embodied Torah with *Cia Sutter, scholar and performer.* Beyond the intellectual and emotional, we have a physical response to the text. This session will explore this interaction with Torah through 1) A focus on textual use of actions, metaphors, and directions of movement, 2) Our internal images of movement 3) Gestures of interpretation.

Rabbis Behaving Badly with *Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein, Director of By the Rivers* Join us for a lively discussion of stories of rabbis of the early rabbinic period making bad choices. We will examine how one can be a religious leader with all too human failings, discover the limits of good intentions, and ask if the protagonists, and we, can learn anything from these stories.

Is Incarceration an Ethical Modality of Punishment and Rehabilitation? A Torah Perspective with *Rabbi Zalman Bendet, Chabad of Greater St. Paul* A diverse set of sentencing options ranging from financial penalties to capital punishment are found in the Torah, yet, the concept of prison does not appear anywhere in Judaism. We will explore some classical Jewish sources which speak to the idea of incarceration.

Gender Diversity in Jewish Texts with *Rabbi Tamar Grimm, Beth Jacob Congregation and Emily Saltzman, LGBTQ Inclusion Specialist* Most people think of non-binary gender as a 21st century concept, but thousands of years ago the rabbis already constructed multiple categories of sex and gender. We will explore descriptions of gender in Jewish sacred texts as well as contemporary understandings of gender diversity.

Safeguarding Local Jewish History, Together with *Kate Dietrick, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, and Robin Doroshov, Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest* We will learn about what materials are found in the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, what activities are led by the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest, and through a hands-on exercise demonstrate the unique stories uncovered inside a single item.

SESSIONS ONE AND TWO These classes run for two hours.

Falafel “Basta” at Home with *Zehorit Heilicher, chef*. Can’t make it to your favorite falafel stand in Israel this winter? Join us as we saute’, roast and fry our way into a delicious alternative.

Enrollment is limited to 15. There is a \$15 ingredients fee per student, payable to the teacher.

Israelites in Space: The Final Exile or Perpetual Frontier Creating Eternal Imagery for Our Descendants with Rabbi Daniel Etedgui, Sharei Chesed Congregation. In parallel with the launch to the moon of an Israeli time-capsule (Feb. 2019), we will make artifacts for time-capsules of our own in this Jewish text and mixed-media creative session. Enrollment is limited to 12. There is a \$10 materials fee per student, payable to the teacher.