

Faculty

Rabbi David Levin-Kruss: BA and Teachers' Certificate from Hebrew University. Rabbinic ordination from the Joseph Strauss Rabbinical Seminary. Pardes faculty member.

Nira Lion: AJL's Hebrew Language Coordinator and Director of the Hebrew Department at J-Site. Graduate of Hebrew University and received an M. Ed from the University of Pittsburgh.

Helen Faye Rosenblum: Graduate of Chatham College, Barnard College and the University of Pittsburgh. Author of two published novels

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff: AJL Community Scholar. He is the Rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel in White Oak, PA. He has written a substantial number of scholarly articles and responsa, particularly in the field of Jewish Law and Ethics.

Noam Zion: Senior Fellow at Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel. Author of numerous publications including : *A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah and A Different Light; and a Day Apart: Shabbat at Home.*

**The Agency for Jewish Learning is a
beneficiary agency of the United
Jewish Federation.**

The Agency for Jewish Learning admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to its programs. Adherence to the Jewish faith is a requirement of some of the programs

Community Program

AJL is proud to sponsor:
a combined communal
observance of

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Erev Shavout
May 28, 2009
10:00 pm –1:00 am
JCC Squirrel Hill & JCC South Hills

The rabbis and scholars of our
Pittsburgh community will be offering
multiple simultaneous study sessions in
three time slots:

10:00-10:50, 11:00-11:50, 12:00-12:50
Refreshments will be served.

Sessions will be offered from every possible Jewish
perspective, in what promises to be
an extraordinary festival of Torah!

Watch your mail for details!!!

This program is made possible from a grant
from the United Jewish Federation.

Jewish Studies

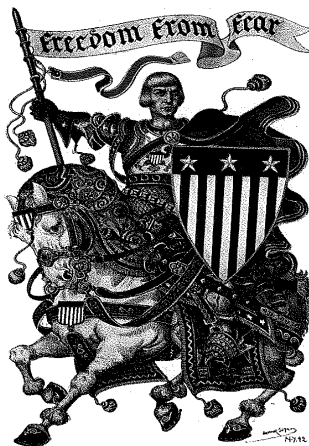
Arthur Syzk: Contemporary Political Caricature as a Biblical Sermon

Noam Zion

Arthur Syzk was a Polish illuminator of Passover Haggadah and Purim Scrolls of Esther during the fateful years between 1930-1950. He used biblical stories to promote a political agenda and to help his audience envision the world in new ways. His use of sarcastic, gallows humor— often gave strength in a time when the Nazi enemy seemed invincible and Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda often affected Jews self- understanding. This lecture will take place at the Posner Center at Carnegie Mellon University which is currently featuring the Syzk Exhibit.

Sunday, March 1 10:00-11:30 am
At Posner Center \$10

Parking is available in the East Campus Garage,
Forbes Ave at Beeler Street.



Faculty

Dr. Ronald Brauner: B.A. Temple University, PhD from Dropsie College. Member of the faculty of Wexner Heritage Foundation and currently a professor of Judaics at Siegal College in Cleveland.

Iris Dreifuss: M.A. Tel Aviv University in School Counseling. Worked for 14 years in Israel as a school counselor. Currently teaches Hebrew at SAJS.

Haya Feig: B.S. Bar Ilan University, Master's in Jewish Studies from London University. Head of Hebrew at University of Pittsburgh.

Avi Ben Hur: B.A Hebrew University; M.A from University of Virginia. Worked for Melitz, Yad Vashem and Archaeological Seminars as the Director Guiding School and Educational content.

Linda Hurwitz: B.S. Towson State University. M.A. in Literature from Southern Connecticut College. Retired director of the Holocaust Center of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Rabbi Daniel Kripper: Spiritual leader of Adat Shalom. Previously served as a pulpit rabbi in South America and Palm Desert. Current president of the Greater Pittsburgh Rabbinic Association.

Leslie Itskowitz: Graduate of Chatham College. She has earned several credits in Jewish studies and Hebrew language from the University of Pittsburgh.

Elky Langer: Degree in Education from Gateshead Teacher's Training college. Teacher at Hillel Academy and Kolliel Jewish Women's Center.

Ulpan/Hebrew registration

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ Amount Enclosed _____
 Mastercard/Visa (circle one): Name on card _____
 Card number _____ Exp.date _____
 Email Address: _____

Send to Agency for Jewish Learning, 2740 Beechwood Boulevard,
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or call Nira Lion at 521-1101 x3202 to register by phone.
 Full payment due with registration.

Check Class	Code	CLASS TITLE	Day/Time	Fee	\$ Due
		Jewish Studies			
	BH1	Beginner Hebrew/Siddur Level 1— First Semester	Monday 7 pm	\$180	
	BH1b	Beginner Hebrew/Siddur Level 1—Second Semester	Monday 6 pm	\$180	
	BH1c	Beginner Hebrew/Siddur Level 1—Second Semester	Tuesday 6 pm	\$180	
	BH2	Beginner Hebrew Level 2	Tuesday 7:30 pm	\$180	
	BH3	Beginner Hebrew Level 3	Monday 7:30 pm	\$180	
	IH 1	Intermediate Hebrew 1/2	Tuesday 6:30 pm	\$180	
	AH 1	Advanced Hebrew	Wednesday 7 pm	\$170	
	PB2	Prayerbook Hebrew 2/3	Tuesday 9 am	\$180	
	ULP	Ulpan	Various dates	\$180	

Jewish Studies

Understanding Christianity Through Jewish Eyes

Dr. Ronald Brauner

There is a lively interest in understanding other religions in American society. Ecumenism, the questions of religion in public and political life, the desire to understand the values and outlooks of our neighbors, our friends and even our own family members, all contribute to a growing curiosity and willingness to learn. These three sessions are devoted to the basics of the Christian faith. Key terms, phrases, ideas and practices are examined in their own right and how they compare and contrast with Jewish tradition.

Monday 3 sessions
 11:15 am -1 2:15 pm \$45
 May 4-18 AJL Building

Profiles in Female Courage in Exodus: The Women in Young Moshe's Life

Noam Zion, Hartman Scholar

In Exodus chapters one and two, women heroines are God's chosen representatives. We will look at contemporary notions of male/female differences to enlighten the story that pits a male arch tyrant Pharaoh against the solidarity of women of all ethnic and class backgrounds.

Monday 1 session
 10:00-11:30 am \$10
 February 23 AJL Building

Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

Beginner Prayerbook Hebrew level 2/3

In this course, you will learn to read and understand the Shabbat services. Grammar and vocabulary will be incorporated in the teaching. Through the year, highlights of Biblical texts associated with holidays will be read, explained and discussed with hands-on materials, thus making it a meaningful experience.

Tuesday 12 sessions - \$180
 9:00 - 10:30 am Instructor: Leslie Itskowitz
 AJL

Jewish Studies

In Praise of Envy, Adultery and Disobeying Your Parents: Re-evaluating the Ten Commandments

David Levin-Kruss

The ten commandments are more honored than understood. We pay lip service to them but often do not understand how problematic they are. In this class, we will examine whether envy, adultery and honoring parents is indeed as straightforward as it seems.

Tuesday 1 session
 10:30-Noon \$10
 February 24 AJL Building

Mark your calendar:
Israeli style Ulpan
19 hours of Hebrew in one
Week !!
 June 1, 2, 4
 (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
 June 7, 8, 9
 (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday)

 6:00-9:00 pm Weekdays
 10:00 AM-2:00 pm Sunday
 \$180

 Includes light supper and refreshments on weekdays and an Israeli lunch on Sunday

Paradise Lost: What went wrong in the Garden of Eden

Elky Langer

This class will explore the environment that existed when man first dwelled in the Garden of Eden, the root causes of the mistake made by Adam and Eve, and the ramifications for future generations. Discover the profound changes that took place which continue to affect every one of us. What does this event tell us about our strengths, our daily challenges, and our ultimate goals? **There is no class on March 10.**

Tuesday 5 sessions
 10:30-Noon \$50
 Feb. 24-March 31 AJL Building

Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

Beginner's Hebrew Level 2 & 3 Conversational Hebrew Course

These courses are designed for the beginner who can read or has completed at least one semester of reading Hebrew in our Adult Education Program (Ulpan). Emphasis is placed on conversational Hebrew and reading with comprehension. The audio-visual method is used to provide essentials of grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Great for following the prayerbook with some comprehension, reinforcing your child's Hebrew, or for first time travelers to Israel.

Level 2: Tuesday 7:30-9:00 pm Aliza Estrin AJL Building Classroom 1	Level 3: Monday 7:30-9:00 pm Nira Lion Classroom 1- AJL
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All classes above are 12 sessions: \$180

Intermediate Hebrew

Hebrew conversation in classic Ulpan style. Hebrew is the only language spoken in this class. Immerse yourself in the language. Designed for students who have completed at least two years of Hebrew in our Adult Education Program, Beginner's Hebrew II or Intermediate Hebrew in our summer Ulpan or its equivalent.

Intermediate 1 & 2

Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 pm AJL Building Classroom 1	12 sessions - \$ 180 Instructor: Nira Lion
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Jewish Studies

Preparing for Birkat HaChamah

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

It only happens once every 28 years. On April 8, 2009, the Jewish world will mark the once-in-a-generation experience of Birkat Ha-Chamah, the blessing of the sun. What is this blessing, and why do we do it? Why so infrequently? In this special one session tutorial, Rabbi Schiff will explore the nature of the Jewish calendar, the events of creation, the sun, and the thread that ties them all together. He will provide practical instruction for April 8, so that you are ready to partake in this rare Jewish ritual procedure.

Tuesday March 24 7:00-8:30 pm	1 session free AJL
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Transformations of Shabbat: Seven Revolutions in the Celebration

Noam Zion

Shabbat was given at Sinai but it has never stopped growing and changing. The Rabbis turned it from a day of forbidden labor to a day of sacred pleasures, the mystics made it into a weekly wedding, and the feminists redeemed Shabbat from the curse of Eve to the blessing of the Shabbat Queen. This session will examine how and why Shabbat has undergone these interesting changes.

Wednesday 10:30-Noon February 25	1 session \$10 AJL Building
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Jewish Studies

The Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries and Memories

Linda Hurwitz

In this course, students will encounter the Holocaust on the personal level, compare and contrast the way members, young and old, of different European Jewish communities reacted to the Holocaust through an analysis of their writings. The readings will include family life, youth and education, cultural and religious life, day to day living and Jewish leadership.

Wednesday	7 sessions
10:30-11:30 am	\$70
Feb. 25-April 29	AJL Building

The Key Torah Texts to Understanding Judaism

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

This is a special course, designed particularly for Florida snowbirds, but open to all who like to study early in the day. In this course, Rabbi Schiff will teach the critical foundational Torah texts that are central to an understanding of our contemporary Jewish place and role in the world. No prior Torah knowledge is assumed.

Thursday	8 sessions
8:00 – 9:15 am	\$80
April 23-June 11	AJL Building

Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

AJL Hebrew classes begin the week of February 9 and run through the week of May 18. There are no Monday classes on March 9 (Purim), April 7-15th (Passover) and the week of April 27 (Memorial & Independence Day; for Israel)

Beginner's Hebrew and Siddur **Hebrew: level 1 (1st & 2nd Semester)** **A Crash Reading and** **Conversational Hebrew Course**

This course is designed for the absolute beginner. The audio-visual method and mnemonic devices are used to provide essentials of reading, basic vocabulary, and grammar. Great for following the prayerbook, reinforcing your child's Hebrew reading, or for first-time travelers to Israel. The ability to read is a necessary tool for learning the language. You will definitely be able to read Hebrew with some comprehension after only one semester. 2nd semester students will learn the script as well.

1st semester
Monday 7:00-8:30 pm
Instructor: Tal Perel
AJL JTRC Library
12 sessions: \$180

2nd semester
Monday 6:00-7:30 pm
Instructor: Nira Lion
Classroom 1
12 sessions: \$180 OR

2nd Semester– Tuesday
6-7:30 pm-12 sessions
Instructor: Aliza Estrin
AJL JTRC Library– \$180

Continuing Legal Education

Agriprocessors in Jewish Law

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

The list of allegations against Agriprocessors, the kosher slaughter business in Postville, Iowa is long. It includes abuse of animals, low hourly wages for workers, short-changing of pay, OSHA violations, environmental pollution, employing undocumented laborers, and exploitation of child labor, among other charges. None of these charges have yet been proven in a court of law. In this CLE, Rabbi Schiff will explore the Jewish legal issues that have been placed under the microscope in Postville, and will contemplate what halakhic ramifications might result if some or all of these charges are sustained.

Thursday, March 26 8:30-10:30 am
2 Ethics Credits \$65 for legal credit

Torturing Terrorists: The Limits of Democracy? The Case of Israel

Avi Ben Hur

The fighting that has been taking place south of Israel between IDF troops and Hamas terrorists has highlighted the need to find the right balance between security and public interests and the need to maintain human rights. This lecture will focus on how the legal system in Israel has grappled with this issue specifically with regards to the legality of types of interrogation of terrorists. Comparisons will be made between the situation in the United States and Israel.

Thursday, March 26 10:45 am-12:45 pm
2 Ethics Credits \$65 for legal credit

**Both classes will be held at
Tree of Life Congregation**

These classes are approved by the PA CLE Board for 4 Ethics Credits.

Jewish Studies

613 Mitzvot— On One Foot

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

It is well known that the Torah contains 613 mitzvot. But, what are they? And why do we need them? How ought we to understand their meaning? This course will expose participants to the full sweep of the 613 commandments and the way the rabbis have categorized them. It will examine a selection of the 613 commandments in depth for their relevance and meaning, and it will attempt to explore ideas about how Jews might grapple seriously with the mitzvot system at the beginning of the twenty first century.

Thursday 12 sessions
9:30-10:30 am \$120
February 26-May 14 AJL Building

The Top Ten Gift of the Jews

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

South Hills

The Jewish people has given the world a range of extraordinary gifts which, but for the Jews, simply would not exist. In this course, Rabbi Schiff will detail the most significant ten gifts that we Jews have given to civilization, and will explain their overwhelming importance to humanity.

Thursday 6 sessions
11:15 am– 12:15 pm \$60
February 26–April 2 Beth El

Summer Courses

The Bioethics Seminar

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

We live in a time of unprecedented questions in the field of bioethics. In this five part course, Rabbi Schiff will review five critical bioethical issues that our society confronts from the perspective of the Jewish tradition. Rabbi Schiff will explore Abortion, Contraception, Surrogacy, Cloning and Euthanasia.

Tuesday
7:00-8:15 pm
May 12-June 9

5 sessions
\$50
AJL Building

The Last Rabbinic Grill

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

As soon as July 4 is past, it's time to get out the grill! This summer, come and join Rabbi Schiff for his last "Rabbinic grill" as he poses tough questions about contemporary Jewish life, belief and movement positions to a selected group of area rabbis. Rabbi Schiff will ask these rabbis, representing the major streams within twenty-first century Judaism, to respond to the most significant issues and concerns of today's Jews in a direct and forthright fashion. You've invited to grill the rabbis with Rabbi Schiff, in what promises to be a lively and heated learning experience.

Tuesday (and one Thursday)
10:00 – 11:15 am
July 7-28

5 sessions
\$50
AJL

Summer Courses

The Jewish Marriage Minefield

Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff

Some of the biggest struggles within Judaism during the last couple of decades have surrounded issues of Jewish marriage. In this controversial course, Rabbi Schiff will discuss four "hot topics" from the viewpoint of contemporary Jewish law: Inter-marriage, Prohibited Marriage, Homosexual marriage and Adultery. Come and debate the structure of twenty first century Jewish marriage with Rabbi Schiff.

Tuesday
7:00-8:15 pm
July 7-28

4 sessions
\$40
AJL Building

**Watch for more exciting
programs with
Israeli guest scholar**

AVI BEN HUR

Coming soon!!!!