

**The Agency for Jewish
Learning**

**ADULT EDUCATION
SPRING SCHEDULE
2010/5770**



- *Judaic Classes*
- *Hebrew Classes*
- *Special Lectures*

Community Lecture

Jewish Traditions of Death

David Zinner,
Executive Director, Kavod v'Nichum

From Rabban Gamliel to Rabbi Arnold Goodman - 2000 years of Jewish tradition guides the way we care for the dead and comfort the bereaved. Today's Chevra Kadisha builds on that tradition and provides a window into the profoundly spiritual aspect of our work. This program is for you if you've been touched by a death, had a good or bad funeral experience, or want to be there for a friend or relative. Why are Jewish traditions green? Why is consumer protection an integral part of Jewish practice. How do we express our grief? How can we learn to appreciate our life?

Sunday, February 21
@ AJL

1:00-2:30 PM
free of charge

This program is sponsored by the AJL
and the New Community Chevra Kadisha.

Faculty

Rabbi Zvi Silver: Beth Medrash Govcha, Lakewood, NJ. Ner Israel Rabbinical College. Previously the Director of Education and Outreach at Kollel Jewish Learning Center.

Terry Feinberg Steinberg: B.A. Cornell University. M.S.W. University of Pennsylvania. She is a licensed clinical social worker and the Director of the Special Education Department of the Agency for Jewish Learning.

Rabbi Paul Tuchman: B.A. in Philosophy at Pomona College. Ordained at HUC-JIR and currently the Rabbi of B'nai Israel in White Oak, PA.

David Zinner: B.A. Washington University in St. Louis. Currently the founder and Executive Director of Kavod v'Nichum (Honor and Comfort) which works to restore to Jewish death and bereavement practice, the traditions and values of kavod hamet.

**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

Faculty

Rabbi Scott Aaron: AJL Community Scholar. B.A. University of Cincinnati; J.D. University of Toledo; Rabbinic Ordination from HUC-JIR. Currently pursuing a doctorate in Philosophy of Education from Loyola University.

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

David Harris-Gershon: B.A. University of Georgia. Masters of Jewish Education from Hebrew University; M.F.A. University of North Carolina. Taught at the Charles E. Smith Day School and was a creative writing instructor at UNC. He has published several poems and essays.

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

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.

Rabbi Jessica Locketz: Ordained at HUC-JIR. Associate Rabbi and Temple Educator of Temple Emanuel of the South Hills.

Sharon Perelman: B.A. University of Michigan; J.D. University of Pittsburgh. Currently the Associate Foundation Director of the United Jewish Federation Foundation.

Jewish Studies

Jewish War Poetry

Rabbi Paul Tuchman

With Jewish tradition's emphasis on peace, how does war poetry fit in. In this class, students will examine verse in source including Tanakh, Shmuel ha-Nagid, Karl Shapiro and Yehuda Amichai. Students will also study sources in Jewish law on the topic of war.

Monday 7:00-8:30 pm
March 1-March 22 \$60
AJL Classroom 1

Countdown to Sinai

Rabbi Zvi Silver

Join Rabbi Silver for a text based learning experience that will help you prepare for the holiday of Shavout. He will be covering the text of the Torah with primary commentators that covers the journey of the Jews from the splitting of the sea to the experience at Sinai. Learn in depth the story behind the stories, and the deeper messages the Torah conveys to us. All texts will be translated and this class is open to all levels of learners.

Monday 7:00-8:00 PM
April 19-May 17 \$50
AJL Classroom 1

Jewish Studies

Biblical Reverberations in Film

David Harris-Gershon

The influence of the Hebrew bible in contemporary American society is profound, with a most dynamic expression found in the arts; you just have to know where to look. In this class, we will analyze two contemporary films and the biblical stories they use as narrative foundations. This interdisciplinary approach to Jewish learning will involve philosophical inquiry, artistic criticism, and Biblical analysis.

This class will have two units of three classes each. In the first class of each unit, we will engage in philosophical explorations of a biblical story (a one hour session); the second class will screen the corresponding film; in the third class, we will discuss both the film and the ways it interprets the Biblical text (one hour session). The two units are:

1. The Garden of Eden (The Truman Show 1998)
2. Egypt and the Plagues (Magnolia 1999)

Monday 7:00-8:00 PM (1 hr sessions)
 March 1-April 19 7:00 - 9:00 screenings
 (no class on March 29)
 AJL \$75

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
		Hebrew Ulpan			
	BH1	Beginner Hebrew/Siddur Level 1- First Semester	Monday 6 pm	\$180	
	BH1b	Beginner Hebrew/Siddur Level 1—Second Semester	Monday 5:30 pm	\$180	
	BH1c	Beginner Hebrew/ Conversational Level 2 First Semester	Monday 7:30 pm	\$180	
	BH2	Beginner Hebrew Conversational Level 2 Second Semester	Tuesday 6:30 pm	\$180	
	BH3	Beginner Hebrew Conversational Level 3	Monday 7:00 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 6 pm	\$180	
	ULP	Ulpan	Various dates	\$180	

Jewish Studies 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 Amy Karp at 521-1101 x 3204 to register by phone.
 Fax 412-521-1120 or email akarp@ajlpittsburgh.org.
 Full payment due with registration.

Code	CLASS TITLE	Day/Time	Fee	\$ Due
	Jewish Studies			
JT	Jewish traditions	Sun. Feb. 21	Free	
JP	Jewish War Poetry	Mon. 7:00 PM	\$60	
BR	Biblical Reverberations	Mon. 7:00 PM	\$75	
SIN	Countdown to Sinai	Mon. 7:00 PM	\$50	
EX	Explaining the Feminine	Tues. 10:00 AM	\$60	
INT	Interfaith Dialogue	Wed. Noon	\$40	
BP	Big Picture-Foundations	Thur. South Hills	\$100	
BP	Big Picture-Foundations	Thur. Sq. Hill	\$100	
CLE 1	Ethics of Jewish Philanthropy	Thur. April 22	\$65	
CLE2	Jewish Philanthropy	Thurs. April 22	\$35	
CLE 3	Special Needs: Rabbi Aaron	Friday, June 18	\$65	
CLE 4	Special Needs: Terry Steinberg	Friday, June 18	#44	
SHAV	Tikkun Leil Shavout	May 18	Free	

Jewish Studies

Exploring the Feminine Context of the Five Megillot

Rabbi Scott Aaron and Rabbi Jessica Locketz

This 5-part class will explore the underlying and sometimes hidden insights for women in the five scrolls that are read on specific Jewish holidays: Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Song of Songs. Rabbi Scott Aaron and Rabbi Jessica Locketz will jointly lead these classes to explore the gender issues in these five special biblical books. They will unpack the cultural reality for each gender in the biblical period and parse how those realities are reflected in each scroll and why these scrolls are read on their particular holidays.

Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 am
 Feb. 23-March 23 \$60
 AJL Classroom 1



Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

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

Advanced Hebrew

For those who are fluent in Hebrew. Classical and Biblical or modern literary selections are read and discussed. Items from the Israeli press are reviewed. Appropriate for students who have completed Intermediate Hebrew II or a semester of Advanced Hebrew in our Adult Education Program. Only Hebrew is spoken in this class.

Wednesday 12 sessions - \$170
7:00-8:30 PM Instructor: Haya Feig
JCC: Room 204

Jewish Studies

The Bigger Picture: Bringing Jewish Values Home from School

Rabbi Scott Aaron

What do you want to teach your child about being Jewish?

The Foundations of Jewish Family Living is a NEW curriculum for parents, divided into ten one-hour sessions. It provides a thought-provoking encounter with the core values of Jewish parenting. Developed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the curriculum brings to life the master stories from our tradition and the profound messages they convey for raising Jewish children.

This rich learning experience for adults will provide an opportunity for you to bring the Jewish conversation home to share with your young child. At a time in your family's life when your child is beginning his or her own Jewish education, The Bigger Picture provides you with the learning, the language, and the confidence to be a teacher to your own children. There is no class on April 22.

South Hills
Location: TBD
9:15 -10:15 AM
Feb. 25th-May 13
\$100

Squirrel Hill
AJL
11:00- Noon
Feb. 25- May 13
\$100

This program is sponsored by the AJL, Temple Emanuel, Beth El, and the JCC

Community Program

AJL is proud to sponsor:
a combined communal
observance of

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Erev Shavout
May 18, 2010
10:00 pm –2:00 am
JCC Squirrel

The rabbis and scholars of our
Pittsburgh community will be offering
multiple simultaneous study sessions in
three time slots:
10:00-10:50 pm , 11:00-11:50 pm,
12:00-12:50 am & 1:00-1:50 am
Refreshments will be served.

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

Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

Beginner's Hebrew : Conversational Level 2 (1st & 2nd semesters) & Conversational Level 3

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: 1st semester

Monday
7:30-9:00 pm
Tal Perel
AJL Bldg — Chapel
12 sessions \$180

Level 2: 2nd semester

Tuesday
6:30-8:00 pm
Shoshana Halden
AJL Bldg – Chapel
12 sessions \$180

Level 3

Monday
7:00-8:30 PM
Nira Lion
AJL Building– Chapel
12 sessions \$180

To find out which Hebrew class is right for you or to register, contact Nira Lion, AJL Hebrew Language Coordinator, 412-521-1101, 3202.

All classes depend on minimum class registration and are closed at 15 students.

Free make up time is available with Nira Lion if you missed a class or need extra help on Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 PM.

Ulpan/Hebrew Language Classes

AJL Hebrew classes begin the week of January 25th and run through the week of May 3rd. There are no classes the week of March 28th (Passover) and April 19/20 (Yom Hazikaron/Yom Haatzmaut will be observed.)

Registration is open while classes are ongoing. Amounts will be prorated if you begin late.

**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. After the 2nd semester you will be able to read with comprehension, write script and acquire basic conversation in Hebrew.

1st semester
Monday 6:00-7:30 pm
Instructor: Tal Perel
AJL Chapel
12 sessions: \$180

2nd semester
Monday 5:30-7:00 pm
Instructor: Nira Lion
AJL Classroom 1
12 sessions: \$180

Continuing Legal Education

Giving When it Hurts: The Ethical Issues of Philanthropic Giving in a Recession

Rabbi Scott Aaron Esq. and Sharon Perelman, Esq.

The economic crisis and several mammoth Ponzi schemes in the Jewish community have played themselves out, large and small givers of tzedekah were impacted in their ability to give and honor past pledges for philanthropic gifts. This has created a number of ethical problems for philanthropic recipients such as when to hold a donor liable for their pledge and when to release them, who is obligated to make up any difference and what the potential recipient should be expected to bear from changes in the community's resources. The first two hours will focus on the Jewish legal issues surrounding communal giving obligations. The third hour will examine ethical problems facing attorneys around philanthropic giving.

Thursday, April 22 @ AJL

8:30 - 10:30 AM	Rabbi Scott Aaron	\$65	2 Ethics credits
10:45-11:45 AM	Sharon Perelman	\$35	1 Ethics credit

Removing Stumbling Blocks: Judaism and People with Special Needs

Rabbi Scott Aaron and Terry Steinberg

Since the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1992, integration of people with special needs in to society as a matter of right rather than option has become normative. Judaism has historically seen limitations in this area although this has changed markedly in the past few decades. Why were there traditionally barriers in Jewish law to their integration in the first place? Are any of those barriers still in place? What are the competing Jewish legal conditions that would not allow full integration of special needs people in to the community and its institutions? Rabbi Aaron will examine the Jewish legal tradition's perspective on special needs people within the Jewish community. This session will attempt to understand why there has been an ongoing struggle to integrate special needs Jews and how Jewish law has evolved to welcome them. Ms. Steinberg's session will look at current efforts in the Jewish community to address special needs in our communal agencies and schools, and will address how religiously-based institutions are treated under the law in terms of their servicing of special needs people.

Friday, June 18 @ AJL

8:30-10:30 AM	Rabbi Scott Aaron, Esq.	\$65	2 Ethics Credits
10:45-11:45 AM	Terry Steinberg, M.S.W	\$35	1 Ethics Credits

**Students may sign up for both sessions each day or just one session.
These classes are approved by the PA CLE Board.**