

Tikkun Leil Shavuot - Courses and Speakers

What does the Winter of 73 have to say to the Spring of 23?

Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz

Thursday, May 25, 7:00 pm

View the texts [here](#)

Two songs speak to Israel at 75—*the Winter of 73* and *I Have No Other Country*. We are going to study the lyrics and hear different versions of the songs to mine what they teach us about the price, and the promise, of a homeland for the Jewish people.

Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz is the senior rabbi at Temple Emanuel.

Jewish Perspectives on Reproductive Rights

Lisa Fishbayn Joffe

Thursday, May 25, 8:20 pm

What does Jewish law have to say about the permissibility of abortion? This session will explore texts that shape Jewish approaches to abortion and consider how it is regulated under Israeli law.

Lisa Fishbayn Joffe is the Shulamit Reinharz Director of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis University, where she teaches Jewish studies, feminist theory and legal theory.

Going Deep into the Ten Commandments

Rabba Claudia Marbach

Thursday, May 25, 9:00 pm Teen Tikkun – Youth Lounge View the texts [here](#)

We all 'know' the Ten Commandments but why those? Should there be others? Should we take some away? Why that order? What is Jewish about them? Let's investigate them more deeply and see what other questions (and maybe some answers) we can find.

Rabba Claudia Marbach has been the Director of Teen Beit Midrash of Hebrew College, a Talmud focused after-school program for teens with both local and national cohorts since 2019. She developed and taught the Rabbinic curriculum at JCDS Boston for fifteen years.

Rabbinic Rulings during the Shoah— Moral Guidance in the face of Nazi Negation

David Rozenson

Thursday, May 25, 9:10 pm

This presentation will be an introductory exploration of how Rabbis, through responsa on Halakhic questions, provided spiritual and moral leadership in the face of the extreme torment of the Shoah. In the ghettos and camps and wherever Jews faced Nazi evil, people of faith turned to the Rabbis in their midst for guidance on Jewish law relating to matters of life and death. The Rabbis' responses have come down to us through memoirs and oral testimony, and in some cases through writings that were hidden and retrieved after the war. They bear witness to their spiritual resistance to despair and depravity.

David Rozenson is a lawyer and a participant in Summer Shul, Pirkei Avot study and other educational programs at the Temple.

From TzaRaH to TzoHaR: Using Difficult Tight Constricted Places in Our Lives as Portals to Liberation and Fuller Living

Rabbi Jeff Foust

Thursday, May 25, 9:10 pm

Looking at Rashi's Commentary on the Burning Bush with additional insights from the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe, and then applying it to our own lives.

Rabbi Jeff Foust is a longtime student and teacher of embodied Jewish spirituality and Kabbalah, a Jewish community chaplain, and at the end of May will be retiring after 25 years as the campus rabbi for Bentley University.

Singing at Sinai

Lorel Zar-Kessler

Thursday, May 25, 9:10 pm

View the texts [here](#)

Join us for a song session of learning chants and rounds of joy and Torah, creating community with the sound of shared music.

Lorel Zar-Kessler served as the cantor of Congregation Beth El from 1990 through September 2021.

The Shavuot Story; How Each of us can Connect Heaven and Earth

Irle Goldman

Thursday, May 25, 10:25 pm

The Hasidic masters evolved a new way of interpreting the stories of the Torah. They saw them as not just laws and history but also as a way to understand the different parts of ourselves...in our attempts to become better people.

Please join me as we explore the 5 major players in the Revelation story; God, Moses, Torah, Aaron and The Jewish People. We will use these characters to understand better what limits us and what can help us open up to our own revelations...

Irle Goldman is a psychologist/psychotherapist in private practice who teaches his students about how they can use themselves to help others and themselves to heal...to become freer and clearer...to become their best selves and to ascend.

A Yiddish story and the Bible, 2 texts on the significance of a synagogue

Ronnie Levin

Thursday, May 25, 10:25 pm

We will examine 2 texts, Peretz's Rabbi Yochanan the Warden and the biblical commandment to King David to build the Temple (II Sam 7).

Ronnie Levin has a graduate degree in Bible from Brandeis. But that is on the QT. Professionally, she manages the Water and Health program within the Environmental Health Department at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

How to Be a Friend in Judaism

Rabbi Neal Gold

Thursday, May 25, 11:15 pm

View the texts [here](#)

The search for the trust, intimacy, and companionship of friends seems to be a universal human pursuit. But did the Bible and the Sages of the Talmud have a concept of "friendship" the way we do? And if so, what insights can Jewish sources teach us about the pleasures and responsibilities of friends? We'll take a wild ride through Biblical, Rabbinic, and Kabbalistic texts to teach us about one of the most important human relationships that is generally underrepresented in religious sources.

Rabbi Neal Gold teaches and writes about Jewish texts, Israel, and the intersections between Jewish spiritual life and the contemporary world. He is the Founder and Director of A Tree with Roots, an online classroom for spirited Jewish learning. Neal teaches for Hebrew College's Me'ah program and serves as the Jewish Chaplain and Hillel Director at Babson College. He is the editor of *Radiance: The Collected Prose & Poetry of Danny Siegel* (JPS, 2020), and is the Immediate Past President of the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis.

Are We Obligated to Be Empathic to all Jews? To all People?

Robbie Fein

Thursday, May 25, 11:15 pm

View the texts [here](#)

We will read a Teshuvah (a Halachic response to a question posed to a Rabbi) dealing with the issue. The Rabbi is well known as one of the intellectual leaders supporting settlements consistent with a notion of Greater Israel. In addition, he is well known for especially intolerant statements relating to folks that would call into question the inclusive and pluralist notions advocated in the Teshuvah.

A lawyer by training, most of Robbie Fein's career has been spent on the development and financing of high technology businesses. He is also a co-founder and former board member of Gann Academy, a former board member of Gateways and is currently a board member of the Jewish Community Day School.

To Be Part of a People Apart

Howard Zilber

Friday, May 26, 12:15 am

It says in the Torah that we are a people kadosh, a holy people. That word also means separated or apart. We are to be a people distinct from other peoples. I'm going to explore this notion. Are we a people apart? Does that make for alienation? Can alienation be a good thing? Are we truly a chosen people, and what does that mean?

Howard Zilber was trained in philosophy. For many years he has written mainly plays and musicals. In recent years he has begun writing philosophy and Torah commentary.

An Economist Reads the Torah's First Commandment

Yair Listokin

Friday, May 26, 12:45 am

View the texts [here](#)

This session examines two narratives of Parshat Bereishit, the sin of Adam and Eve and the conflict between Cain and Abel, from an economic perspective. By reading the Torah this way, we enable novel interpretations of the Torah's meaning and uncover new resolutions to age-old textual puzzles. Economics also enables us to update the Torah's lessons for modern life, revealing how the tensions at the heart of these narratives resonate today.

Yair Listokin is Deputy Dean and Shibley Family Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He is working on a manuscript entitled. "An Economist Reads Genesis."

Carlebach or Not Carlebach? A Late-Night Musical Quiz

Morry Safer

Friday, May 26, 1:15 am and 3:15 am

View the texts [here](#)

The music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach has become ubiquitous among singing communities. Despite his vast cannon, popular tunes are commonly misattributed to him. Let's sing together and sort some Carlebach originals from some imposters.

Morry Safer is a member of Minyan Ma'or, Engineer at Intel, and Torah/mathematics geek. What he lacks in musical talent, he makes up for in enthusiasm.

Rabbinic vs. Feminist readings of a Midrash from Shir HaShirim Raba

Roberta Gross-Torres

Friday, May 26, 2:00 am

View the texts [here](#)

This will present views of women that we hear through the yearly liturgical cycle (the Haftarah for Noach and Ki Teitze, Hallel and Rosh HaShanna). Many of these images play out in the lives of the Imahot. We will discuss these traditional views and contrast them with feminist interpretations.

Roberta Gross-Torres holds a BA in Religion from Boston University and an MJLS from Hebrew College. She has organized the weekly Shabbat afternoon study of Pirke Avot between Pesach and Shavout for about 10 years.

Origin of Gender from the Creation Story

Susan Bergman

Friday, May 26, 2:30 am

View the texts [here](#)

We will view traditional Rabbinic (and troubling) texts that view women as inherently inferior to men due to these Rabbis' reading of the creation story. In contrast, we will look at a Midrash that views the original person as a hermaphrodite and a modern Orthodox close reading of the Genesis text that supports the idea that there is no inherent superiority/inferiority associated with gender. We will also reconcile the science of embryology with Torah commentary.

Susan Bergman recently retired after a 40 year career as a physiatrist, caring for patients with complex disabilities.

An Israeli Songwriter Challenges His Generation

Robbie Fein

Friday, May 26, 3:45 pm

View the texts [here](#)

We will spend a little time before our last break and then Shacharit translating the lyrics of Israel Singer Songwriter Hanan Ben Ari's Dor (Generation). We will look at the intertextual references to our tradition and consider Ben Ari's comparison of his generation to his grandparents' generation — the generation of 1948.

A lawyer by training, most of Robbie Fein's career has been spent on the development and financing of high technology businesses. He is also a co-founder and former board member of

Gann Academy, a former board member of Gateways and is currently a board member of the Jewish Community Day School.