

## **Session 1 Courses**

**The Arc of the Moral Universe Bends Toward Justice: The Kabbalistic Origins of Tikkun Olam** with **Rabbi Sim Glaser**, Temple Israel

500 years before the theory of the big bang came about, Kabbalists In Tsfat went beyond how the universe came into being, and offered a consideration of why it happened. Spoiler alert: it was meant for goodness!

**Marshal McLuhan, a Hasidic Text, a Midrash, and the Digital Age** with **Rabbi Jeffrey Schein**, rabbi, professor and author of *Text Me: Ancient Jewish Wisdom Meets Contemporary Technology* (2019)  
This fast-paced journey into our evolving digital selves unfolds in three acts. Act one: revisit the prophetic vision of Marshall McLuhan, author of *The Medium is the Message*. Act two: explore concerns regarding balance, perspective, and self-awareness in connection with technology. Act three: view a graphic novella about a canine's search for equilibrium in the digital age.

**Jewish Arts In Transition** with **David Jordan Harris**, Executive Director, Rimon: Minneapolis 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?

**Chanting as Spiritual Practice** with **Hazzan Joanna Dulkan**, Adath Jeshurun

Awaken your soul, bring light to the darkness of the winter, and create sacred space together through the act of chanting Hebrew texts set to simple music.

**Jim Crow & the Jews: A View from the Twin Cities**

**Between Homeland and Diaspora: Centers of Jewish Power and Identity, Past and Present**

## **Session 2 Courses**

**Jewish Satire and Social Justice** with **Jonathan Gershberg**, Twin Cities Jewish Cultural Arts Coordinator, Sabes & St. Paul JCCs

Local comedian Jonathan Gershberg takes you deep into the rich history of how Jewish satire and satirists have tackled the most pressing issues of their time.

**Beyond Purity – the Transformative Power of Mikveh** with **Rabbi David Thomas**

Across virtually every culture and civilization, water symbolizes not only purity, but healing and transformation. For millennia, Jews have harnessed that spiritual power through ritual uses of the mikveh. In this session, we will examine the sources that inform the use of mikveh for a wide range of transformations, ancient and modern.

**Jewish American Women Poets and the Reshaping of Identity** with **Natan Paradise**, Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, U of MN

Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus," famously engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty, has been in the news repeatedly in recent years, yet rarely is its explicitly Jewish context elaborated. In this session we will read together selected poems by Lazarus, Anna Margolin, Muriel Rukeyser, and Maxine

Kumin to discover how these Jewish women writers challenged the world they inherited in order to reshape what it meant to be Jewish, Woman, and American.

**Maimonides: the Message and the Masses** with Earl Schwartz, Assistant Professor of Religion, Hamline University

In this session we explore Maimonides' assumption, shared with prominent medieval Muslim rationalists, that the great majority of people who think of themselves as believers embrace shadows of a greater truth they do not understand - but true philosophers do.

**Doing Zohar** with Rabbi Yosi Gordon, Talmud Torah of St. Paul

The *Zohar*, the greatest work of Jewish mysticism, is often portrayed as obscure, esoteric, kooky and irrelevant. It certainly is obscure and esoteric, but it is rarely kooky and never irrelevant. It is the poetry that balances prosaic halacha as a guide for our daily lives. Let's read a little Zohar and consider its possibilities for changing our lives.

**The Rainbow Thread and the Rabbis** with Sara Lynn Newberger and Jayce Koester

## **2-Hour Courses**

**Learn to Play Mahjong** with Mahj Maven **Frances Fischer**

Learn how to play the great game of Mahjong! This is not the same game you play on the computer--this is your Bubbe's Mahjong! Your patient teacher will guide you through all the steps of this challenging, but VERY FUN game! If you are looking to keep your mind sharp, this is the way to do it! If we get enough interested participants, we can expand to a weekly game.

**Soul Painting** with Liba Zweigbaum Herman

If Mindfulness Meditation, Mussar and a plethora of paint went on a good long walk together... Where the pure creative process is what moves you forward and not the end result. No experience needed! Come play and listen to what your creative voice has to say! Please wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting paint on.