



ENGAGE!

An evening of Jewish learning

After classes, enjoy
schmoozing, mulled
wine, spiced cider
and more.

January 18, 2020 | 22 Tevet 5780

7 p.m. | \$25 in advance | \$30 at the door

Free for ages 30 and under

Talmud Torah of St. Paul

768 Hamline Ave. S., St. Paul



St. Paul JCC

Presented by the St. Paul JCC and Hineni: Talmud Torah of St. Paul

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Adath Israel Synagogue of St. Paul | Adath Jeshurun | Beth Jacob Congregation
J-Pride | Mount Zion Temple | Temple of Aaron | Temple Israel



2020 Course Offerings

All sessions are open to all. All texts will be presented in English.



SESSION ONE • 7:30–8:30 PM

Marshall 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.

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!

Jewish Arts in Transition with David Jordan Harris, Executive Director, Rimón: 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 with Marshall Tanick, attorney, member of the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court, and partner with the law firm of Meyer Njus Tanick. Review the history of discrimination and anti-Semitism in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota that reached its height in the post-World War II era, when the area was known as “The Anti-Semitism Capital” of the country. Examine how the Jewish community responded politically, financially, socially, and legally to these conditions and the challenges it confronted — and continues to face — in addressing anti-Semitism.

Between Homeland and Diaspora: Centers of Jewish Power and Identity, Past and Present with Rabbi Ryan Dulkan, PhD, founder and principal of Midrash Values Based Consulting & Coaching. Tension between Jewish communities living in the Land of Israel and in the Diaspora is not only a contemporary issue. This tension was of central concern to the budding rabbinic communities in Roman Palestine and Babylonia during the Talmudic period. We will look at this key issue through the lens of classical rabbinical sources. How do they help understand the past and the present?

SESSION TWO • 8:35–9:35 PM

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, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley, and avid fan and supporter of community *mikvehs* for ceremonies of affirmation, healing, and welcome. 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 Rabbis and the Rainbow Thread: Connecting to Queer Jewish Narratives with Jayce Koester, J-Pride Program Coordinator, and Sara Lynn Newberger, Director of Hineni. Explore connections between historical queer/Jewish stories and our textual traditions. We'll do a mash-up of a selection from *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts* edited by Noam Sienna, and a piece of classical Jewish learning. Join our communal task of centering previously marginalized stories.

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SESSIONS ONE & TWO • *These classes run for two hours.*

Soul Painting with Liba Zweigbaum Herman, experiential educator and owner of Studio Inside Out. If mindfulness, meditation, mussar, and a plethora of paint went on a good long walk together... Join us for this session where it is the pure creative process that moves you forward and not the end result. Come play and listen to what your creative voice has to say! No experience needed! Please wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting paint on.

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.



Registration

COST \$25 in advance | \$30 at the door

Free for ages 30 and under

ADVANCE REGISTRATION PREFERRED, walk-ins welcome.

Register online at ttsp.org and click ENGAGE! on the homepage

• OR •

Prefer not to use the internet?

Call TTSP (651-698-8807) or email info@ttsp.org with your course choices.

Mail in or drop off a check to TTSP or St. Paul JCC.

Checks should be payable to TTSP, include ENGAGE on the memo line.

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Questions? Contact Tracey Agranoff at tagranoff@stpauljcc.org or 651-255-4759 or Sara Lynn Newberger at sara.lynn@ttsp.org or 651-698-8807.