

# **Temple Sinai Adult Learning Opportunities 5770/2009-2010**

## **On Going Learning Opportunities**

### **Torah Talk**

Delve into the Torah's words & ideas with Rabbi Huntting. Group meets each Wednesday at 9:30am beginning October 7, 2009. There is no fee for this program.

### **Brown Bag**

Bring your lunch and discuss current event with Rabbi Huntting. Group meets each Wednesday at 12:00 noon beginning October 7, 2009. There is no fee for this program.

Brown Bag discussions at Kobernick House are held at 11:45am on the first Tuesday of each month with Rabbi Huntting.

## **Parent Workshops**

*Targeted for parents of pre-schoolers, but open to all. All classes are open to the community and on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm – 8:00pm facilitated by Bethany Leinweber, MS ED, Director of The Gan.*

*We must have a minimum of 4 participants for each class to take place and a maximum of 12. Reminders will be sent out 2 weeks prior. Prices include all materials.*

### **Beginning a New Year with your Family – Rosh Hashanah at its Finest**

Make the Jewish New Year just as important for your family as January 1<sup>st</sup>. Learn ways to celebrate Rosh Hashanah as a family to make it age appropriate, meaningful, and memorable. September 15. Class fee \$18.

### **Positive/Conscious Discipline – A Positive Approach to Parenting while creating a Connection Between School and Home**

STEP-Systematic Training to Effective Parenting Becky A. Bailey's approach to regulating behaviors. Stop saying no and start saying yes. Understand how your child thinks. Stress free way of parenting. This class offers a chance to get ideas, advice, share challenges and successes with other parents. September 22 – November 10<sup>th</sup> (8 sessions). Class fee \$80.

### **Chanukah is not just about The Gifts/Xmas Dilemma**

Learn other ways to celebrate Chanukah than just gift giving. Discuss challenges you face when celebrating both Chanukah and Christmas in your home and how to handle questions and make a clear stand. December 8. Class fee \$18.

### **Speech and Language – Red Flags**

Meet with a Speech and Language Pathologist and learn how to recognize speech delays/issues. January 12. Class fee \$18.

### **Potty Training – No Pressure!**

Learn techniques to make Potty Training fun and less stressful! Figure out ways to notice signs of readiness and learn when to back off. February 9. Class fee \$18.

### **A Seder for Little Ones – How to make Passover Age Appropriate**

You will receive a Hagaddah for ages 2-5 and gain a wonderful bag of tricks to make the Passover Seder fun, age appropriate, interactive, and memorable for everyone involved. March 23. Class fee \$36.

### **Parent Shmooze:**

*Parent Shmooze is targeted for parents of school age children, but open to all and offers an opportunity for parents to informally explore the challenges of Jewish parenting. All sessions are Sunday mornings at 9:30am. These classes are for Temple Sinai members. There is no fee for these classes.*

### **Making a Jewish Day: Incorporating Jewish Rituals into Your Child's Day.**

October 18 facilitated by Sue Huntting, Religious School Director.

### **Making a Jewish Life: Exposing Your Child to the Rituals of the Jewish Lifecycle from Womb to Tomb.**

January 10 facilitated by Hazzan Cliff Abramson.

### **Making a Jewish Year: Building Jewish Identity through the Celebration of Jewish Holidays.**

March 7 facilitated by Rabbi Geoff Huntting.

## **Tuesdays at Temple**

*All Tuesday evening classes are open to the community and meet from 7:00pm – 8:30pm unless otherwise specified.*

### **Bibliodrama**

Biblical stories come to life as the members of this class roll play the various characters in the stories. The text will be read in English and the opportunity to question the people of the Book as they tell their life stories will engender interesting "first person" commentary and new understanding. The class will meet 10:00-11:30am and is facilitated by Rabbi Ari Shapiro. Class will meet a total of 8 times; January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2, 9, and 16. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **Ten Jewish Novels: 4000 Years of Jewish History**

Rabbi Huntting explores Jewish history thru the lens of historical novels. Note: class will meet 9:30am -11:00am on the following dates: Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Feb. 9, Mar. 9 and April 13. There is no fee for this program. This class is for Temple Sinai Members.

### **Tale of the Seven Beggars**

Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav was without a doubt one of the greatest of the Hasidic story tellers. The Tale of Seven Beggars is his final tale which he regarded as the climax of literary activity. The story is extremely rich in imagery and combines in an artistic unity biblical, Talmudic and kabbalistic sources together with a certain amount of worldly wisdom and elements of folk tales. The story as a whole is made up of an outer narrative framework and an inner framework that provides the setting for six of the beggars' tales and an unexpected ending. By reading the story together and unpacking the intricacies of its many twists and turns, Rabbi Ari Shapiro and the members of the class will discover its deeper meaning and significance. Class will meet from 10:00am – 11:30am, January 5, 12 and 19. This course will also be offered in the evening on March 16 and 23, and April 1 and 6. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18, text fee of \$5 for all.

### **Ancient Jewish Women Patrons: What Role did Women Play in financing early Judaism?**

Under what circumstances could Jewish women in the Ancient World control their own wealth? What power did they have to contribute to institutions of their choice? Recent research has brought some surprising new answers to these questions. Come consider early Jewish sources, and the important issue of agency. This course will be facilitated by Rabbi Dr. Susan Marks, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies, New College of Florida. February 16, 2010. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

## **The Wisdom Books of the Hebrew Bible & Jewish Mysticism**

Bob Waxman presents this fabulous learning experience for the individual who is interested in the esoteric aspects of Judaism, but may not want to go as far as Kabbalah. March 9, 2010. Class fee \$18.

### **Jewish Film Series**

Tuesday afternoons from 3pm - 5pm. Films will be followed by a discussion facilitated by Rabbi Huntting. There is no fee for Temple Sinai Members, non-members \$5.

November 10: "Paragraph 175" - Actor Rupert Everett provides the narration for the disquieting documentary that shines a light on the Third Reich's vicious persecution of male homosexuals during World War II. The title comes from the arcane 1871 German statute making sodomy punishable by incarceration (with the ultimate goal to eradicate the population completely). Only a handful of survivors, now frail and withered, remain to recount their traumatic tales in this poignant film.

November 17: "Turn Left At The End Of The World" - This coming of age story of two teenage girls takes place at the end of the 60s, a time of economic boom in Israel after the 6 Days War. At this time Israel was led by the Labor Party, directing resources to building industry in "development" towns and populating remote desert areas of the country. New Immigrants from India face culture, climate and social shock of being badly integrated in a new society and the language barrier and lack of trust of veteran Moroccan immigrants.

November 24: "In Our Own Hands"- During the final weeks of World War II, His Majesty's Jewish Brigade, the only all-Jewish fighting unit in the war, goes into combat against the Nazis and comes away victorious. It is after the war that the real story of the brigade begins. Amidst the chaos of the post-war Europe, the young Jewish soldiers masterminded one clandestine operation after the next, forming secret vengeance squads to catch and punish Nazi officers in hiding and engineering the rescue and illegal movement of Holocaust survivors to Palestine.

December 1: "Yellow Asphalt"- An anthology of three unrelated stories....As western culture gradually began to infiltrate the Judean desert, once the sole domain of the Bedouin tribes, the convergence of contemporary mores and ancient traditions was unavoidable. At the edge of modern Israel and the Bedouin way of life, three dramatic encounters between two very different societies set the stage for Yellow Asphalt: the tragic death of a Bedouin boy on the asphalt road cutting the desert in two; the impossible marriage between a German woman and her Bedouin husband and the forbidden love affair of a Bedouin maid and her Israeli employer. Shot on location in the exotic landscapes of the Judean desert with the participation of the Bedouin tribe "Jahalin," at the heart of Yellow Asphalt are tales of the human condition - of passion and deceit, carelessness and love, courage and selfishness, in which no one culture has a monopoly on virtue or vice.

April 20: Film yet to be determined.

April 27: Film yet to be determined.

May 18: Film yet to be determined.

May 25: Film yet to be determined.

### **The Tastes of the Jewish Year**

*Class deadline is one week prior to each class. All classes are open to the community. We must have a minimum of 6 participants for each class to take place and a maximum of 12. Class meets 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.*

Come be inspired Temple members Chef's Alyson and Mark Zildjian! Classes are designed to entice your palate and be creative with traditional and no so traditional Gourmet Jewish delicacies. Participants will receive recipes, healthy cooking tips and secrets, ideas on smart shopping, prepping ahead, tricks on how to present your dishes beautifully, but most importantly TASTINGS of all dishes prepared. Grab your friends or spouse and bring your enthusiasm for these fun filled adventures in the kitchen.

September 15: Break-the Fast: Israeli Dishes; class fee \$18.

October 20: Shabbat Meal: Italian Style & Entertaining; class fee \$25.

November 10: Desserts & Party Ideas; class fee \$18

December 8: Hanukkah Favorites; class fee \$25

January 26: Coming to America: European Maza-Small Delights; class fee \$25.

February 23: Purim Festive Delights; class fee \$18.

March 16: Pesach: Fun Menu Ideas; class fee \$25.

### **“Crak-ing” the Game of Mah Jongg**

Learn how to play the game of Mah Jongg in this 4 session course for beginners, sponsored by the Women of Sinai. Class size is limited. Learn now and be prepared for WOS’s March 25 *Mah Jongg and More!* Facilitated by Shelly Youngelman. The following Tuesday’s from 1pm – 4pm October 20, 27 & November 3, 10. Registration deadline is Oct. 13. Class fee \$18 for Temple Sinai members, \$25 non-members.

### **“Crak-ing” the Game of Mah Jongg II**

Mah Jongg class for beginners and those new to the game. Continue to hone skills from the first session and be ready to play at WOS’s March 25 *Mah Jongg and More!* Facilitated by Shelly Youngelman. The following Tuesday’s from 6:30 - 8:30pm March 2, 9 and 16. Registration deadline is February 23rd. Class fee \$18 for Temple Sinai members, \$25 for non-members.

### ***Oy Gevalt a Yiddish Revival!!!***

The FIVE lectures and activities include: Yiddish and its influence on the English Language, The Jewish Radio Project, Prominent Yiddish Literary Figures, Theatre, Historic Photographs, Politics, Klezmer, Jewish Music History, & Yiddish Movies. Lectures are in Yiddish and in English. Even if you don’t speak a word of Yiddish, you will love the History, the Music, the TRADITIONS! April 6, 20 and 27 and May 4 and 11. This course will be facilitated by Baila Miller, Miller Music & Fine Arts, LLC. Registration deadline is March 29. Class fee \$20 for Temple Sinai members, \$36 for non-members.

## **Other Offerings**

### **Introduction to Prayer Book Hebrew**

Improve your ability to follow and share in the Shabbat service. This is not a class in Biblical Hebrew but rather an examination of the specific texts of the Shabbat liturgy for the purposes of familiarity and recitation. Specific exercises utilizing the student’s working knowledge of the Hebrew Alphabet as well as some of the chants as they relate to the prayers will be used. Class will meet 10:00am - 11:15am facilitated by Hazzan Abramson on the following Wednesdays: Oct. 7,14,21,28, Nov. 11,18,25, Jan. 6,13,20,27, Feb. 3,10,17,24. No fee for members, non-members \$18. Class pre-requisite: a working understanding of the Hebrew Alphabet.

### **Bible Study Series**

*No previous knowledge of the Hebrew Bible or Hebrew skills required. Each class will meet for three weeks, 90 minutes per session and will be facilitated by Larry Deutsch.*

### **Women Who Fight for Their Rights in Torah**

The society of the Israelites in Torah times was clearly patriarchal. Women had few legal rights and sometimes had to depend on their guile and determination to be fairly treated. We will discuss two stories of women who stand up for what is rightfully theirs and find their way to fulfill their destiny, despite transgressing norms found elsewhere in the Bible, and thereby avoid being victims. We will focus on and discuss the story of Tamar and Judah (Genesis) and The Daughters of

Zelophehad (Numbers) looking at classical and modern midrash including modern feminist writings on these important Torah narratives. Class will meet Thursdays from 9:30am – 11:00am on the following dates: October 15, 22 and 29. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **What's in the Hebrew Bible besides Torah?**

Most synagogue attending Jews are familiar with the Torah (the 5 Books of Moses). But the Hebrew Bible contains 39 books and most of us are less familiar with these Jewish important books. The class will take a concise tour through these sacred works, touching on the “historical” books such as Joshua, Judges and Kings, a few Psalms, a bit of the Prophets, and some of the writings such as Ruth, Esther, and Job. Class will meet Thursdays from 9:30am – 11:00am on the following dates: November 5, 12 and 19. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **David and Bathsheba**

Three thousand years ago, King David is at the zenith of his power. He has united the northern and southern tribes of Israel into one kingdom. David's personal life looms large throughout his stories. David is an exceptional man but all too human and fallible, too often going to extremes to achieve his personal desires, in the process displeasing God. One spring day he sees a married woman, Bathsheba, and covets her. She becomes the longest lived and most important relationship in his life, making the journey from lust to love and trust.

We will read and discuss the stories of David and Bathsheba (Book of Samuel) and Solomon and Bathsheba (Book of Kings) and some traditional and modern commentary, and in the process try to get some insight into King David's life, struggles and personality. Class will meet Thursdays from 9:30am – 11:00am on the following dates: January 14, 21 and 28. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **Short Stories in the Hebrew Bible**

There are three narratives in the Hebrew Bible that take the form of short stories: Ruth, Esther and Jonah. All are surely non-historical, probably fables, but have critical religious or political lessons for the Jewish people, and were included by our ancient sages into our Bible. We will read and discuss each, spending a week on each short story.

Ruth is a moving and familiar Biblical narrative with themes of loving-kindness (*chesed*), loyalty and redemption. Many modern scholars believe that below the surface, The Book of Ruth has hidden and darker economic and political themes that reflect issues in Israelite society of the time. Ruth is traditionally read in synagogues on Shavuot.

Esther is clearly an example of imaginative storytelling with comedic overtones. Esther is selected Queen of Persia after winning a beauty contest. It is a diaspora story of great danger to the Jews of Persia from a scoundrel named Haman. The Jews save themselves from slaughter and God is not mentioned anywhere in the story. We will try to puzzle out why this non-religious story was included in the Hebrew Bible. Esther is traditionally read in synagogues on Purim.

Jonah is considered to be a prophet but unlike the other Biblical Prophets, this is a story about the prophet rather than a record of his prophesies. Jonah is a reluctant prophet and when sent by God to Nineveh he runs in the opposite direction. Then we have one of the best known Bible stories, the “big fish” story, which ends in Jonah being cast on land where God wants him to be. Upon hearing God's message, as delivered by Jonah, the wicked people of Nineveh do repent and are forgiven. Jonah is traditionally read in synagogues on Yom Kippur. Class will meet Thursdays from 9:30am – 11:00am on the following dates: February 4, 11, 18. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **The Origins of Life: A Jewish Perspective**

The increasing loud and angry debate between advocates for intelligent design and evolution is found in our school curriculums, court cases and all over the media. Jewish views vary on evolution, creationism and the origin of life and our tradition encourages healthy debate. We will read the two creation stories in the Torah and discuss them from a traditional and modern perspective, looking at classic Rabbinic, modern day Orthodox and liberal Jewish thought. We will also look at some modern feminist writings on creation and examine Jewish views on evolution. Class will meet

Thursdays from 9:30am – 11:00am on the following dates: March 4, 11 and 18. No fee for Temple Sinai members, non-members \$18.

### **AARP Driver Safety Program**

“The nation’s first and largest classroom refresher for motorists age 50 and older”.

Two sessions: January 26 & 27 and April 20 & 21, 9am -1pm. \$12 AARP members, \$14 non-members. Facilitated by Sandy Coran.

## **Special Programs**

### **Film Festival Fundraiser**

#### **Four Award Winning Films by New Love Films**

Dan Katzir, Yael Katzir & Ravit Markus of New Love Films presents 4 award winning films Tuesday, January 19 from 1:30pm – 6:00 pm and Sunday, January 24 from 2:30pm – 6:00pm. There will be an opportunity to purchase DVD’s of these films after the showings. Fee: Advance tickets \$12.50 for each performance date or \$20 for both, after January 11<sup>th</sup> \$18 and \$30. Students admitted at no charge. Price includes conference call or video introduction with the film makers and refreshments. Open to the community.

#### **Tuesday, January 19**

**“Praying in her own Voice”** This powerful film documents the courageous struggle of the famed “Women of the wall” movement. This group has spearheaded the battle for female equality in the religious world. Their main focus has been on the Wailing Wall - the holiest site for Jews where orthodox, conservative and reform women are not allowed to gather and pray.

**“Out for Love.....Be Back Shortly”** Dan Katzir's autobiographical film expresses the outcry of his generation, as it struggles to find love and privacy amidst the reality of daily terror and hate. Mr. Katzir, a former officer and paratrooper intimately reveals his loves story with Iris, a charming girl about to begin her army service. A unique Israeli classic which has garnered over 13 International Awards across the globe in numerous film festivals and a nomination for an Israeli Academy award.

#### **Sunday, January 24**

**“Company Jasmine”** An award winning documentary capturing the prestigious Women Field Officers’ School. Filmmaker Yael Katzir, herself a former officer, is following for five months five of the fifty women cadets in training. They cope with pressures, challenges and fears. They discover their limits and needs for friendships as they tough it out to the finish line. It is a story about young women aged 18, during compulsory military service in Israel.

**“Yiddish Theater: A Love Story”** Enter the funny, larger-than-life world of Yiddish Theater through this moving new documentary film about the amazing woman who has kept the oldest running Yiddish Theater in America alive. Zypora Spaisman is a Holocaust survivor who conquers all hearts in her passion for art, life and Yiddish.

## **Temple Sinai Educational Staff**

**Rabbi Geoff Hunting** was ordained at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion after having spent nine years as a lawyer. He has been at Temple Sinai since 1993.

**Hazzan Cliff Abramson** received his investiture from Hebrew Union College, New York in 2006 after completing a master's degree in Sacred Music in 2005. He earned his first graduate degree in theatre from New York University in 1985 and has performed on stage, film and television. In addition to Jewish music, he has also trained in classical music as a tenor and classical guitarist. His Bar/Bat Mitzvah training program, recitals, original synagogue music, and lecture programs on Jewish music are all a result of his eclectic background. Hazzan Abramson has been at Temple Sinai since 2006.

**Sue Huntting** is Religious School Director at Temple Sinai and teaches in the Melton program. She is also Managing Editor of the *Journal of Jewish Education* and associated with the Experiment in Congregational Education.

**Bethany Leinweber** holds a B.S. in Education, a B.A. in Judaic Studies, and an M.S. Ed from the University of Miami, with a specialization in reading and learning disabilities. Bethany, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, first moved to Sarasota with her family while she was in high school. She now lives in Sarasota with her husband, Joshua, and their three children, Noah, Sage and Alix.

**Rabbi Ari Shapiro** graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1953 and was certified as a Nursing Home Consultant in Pharmacy shortly thereafter. He has more than 2500 hours of didactic and experiential training in Clinical Pastoral Education and was ordained as a rabbi in the Jewish Renewal Movement in 1997. Reb Ari has taught numerous adult education classes and has worked in hospital, nursing home, and hospice settings. For the past twenty years he has been a chaplain in jails and prisons.

**Chef's Alyson and Mark Zildjian** have been creating and working in the food industry for over 25 years. Alyson is a graduate from Johnson & Wales University and Mark attending Boston University. They bring their varied ethnic background and experience to the kitchen showing you how to prepare healthy homemade Jewish delicacies.

**Lawrence J. Deutsch, Ph.D.** studied Torah, Midrash and Talmud at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem, Cincinnati and New York. Graduate studies in Hebrew Bible at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Completed Para-Rabbinic Certificate (HUC-JIR).

**Shelly Youngelman** has been playing Mah Jongg for over 50 years. She is a former teacher and supervisor of Programs for the Homeless for the New York City Board of Education. Shelly has been living in Sarasota for two years. She is teaching Mah Jongg at Temple Sinai as well as for Brandeis. Shelly is running this year's ORT Mah Jongg Tournament at Palm Aire.

**Bob Waxman M.A.**, is the author of the best-selling book *Kabbalah Simply Stated*, and has been teaching in Sarasota and throughout Florida for 10 years. He has been interviewed on national TV and radio several times, and has been studying Kabbalah for 24 years. Bob holds a Master's Degree from Skidmore College in Philosophy of Religion, and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Human Sciences. He has given lectures at (6) Jewish Community Centers throughout South Florida, and has taught classes at Temple Beth-Israel on Longboat Key, and dozens of other synagogues throughout Florida. Additionally, he is certified by The American Seminar Leaders Assoc., and a graduate of The School of Practical Philosophy in NYC.

**Rabbi Dr. Susan Marks** has occupied the Klingenstein Chair of Judaic Studies at New College of Florida, the Honors College of the state of Florida, teaching courses in varieties of Jewish practice, scriptural interpretation, and theoretical aspects of religion since 2003.. She received her Rabbinic Ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1988, and her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 2003. This past year New College of Florida awarded her tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

**Sandy Coran**, is a member of Temple Sinai and has been teaching the AARP Safety Driving Class for just more than one year. She was so impressed with the program when she took the course that she decided to teach it. She continues to enjoy the classes and the people who come to them.

**Baila Miller**, the Founder of Miller Music & Fine Arts Programs, received her Bachelor's Degree from Memphis State University in 1978 where she majored in Social Work with emphasis in Geriatric Care. In 1988, she received a Master's Degree in English. She taught at Memphis State University, Intensive English for Internationals Program for many years. In the mid-1990's, Mrs. Miller entered the Doctoral Program at The University of Memphis in the Department of Education in Instruction and Curriculum Development. She completed an additional 40 hours of coursework with focus in the area of Instructional Design, Statistical Research, and Curriculum Development. With this unique background, Mrs. Miller is pleased to design effective and entertaining musical and fine arts programming for Sarasota & Bradenton Communities.