

Life-long learning
has been a part of
Jewish tradition for
thousands of years.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

2019-2020/5780



Adult and Family Learning & Programs

- Jewish Life
- Jewish Belonging
- Jewish Community

October



ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH/UNLOCKING THE SPIRITUALITY OF PRAYER

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller and Kathy Fink

Sundays, 9:30 - 10:30 Rabbi Lisa (focused on prayer)

Sundays, 10:30- 11:30 Hebrew with Kathy Fink

October 13, November 17, 24, December 8, 15,
January 12, 26, February 2, 9, 23, March 1, 15, 22, 29,
April 19, 26, May 3, 17

Hebrew is the beautiful key that unlocks much of the spirituality of Judaism: the ability to pray fully, sing heartily, and chant the sacred Torah words from the scroll. This year, we invite you to expand your Hebrew skills, immerse in a deep understanding of liturgy, find new comfort and ability in worship and song, and...read from Torah!

Join our 18-week Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, which is equal parts building on Hebrew reading skills to include familiarity with Hebrew prayers, and learning key Hebrew words and spiritual ideas to unlock the meaning within prayers. Co-taught by Kathy Fink and Rabbi Lisa, this Sunday morning program will culminate in an Adult B'nai Mitzvah on Shabbat morning, May 30, which is Shavuot, the celebration of receiving Torah at Sinai. You will be reading Torah! If you have participated in an adult b'nai mitzvah in the past, you may always participate again! Rabbi Lisa's class is open to any Temple member who would like to enrich his or her understanding of prayer. Kathy Fink's class, which is the preparation for the B'nai Mitzvah service, is open to Jewish Temple members who completed Kathy's Hebrew class or are of equivalent proficiency.

This program is available only to Temple members. There is a \$50 materials fee. Please register and pay in the Temple office by October 10.

SHABBAT BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK LUNCH

Kaddish.com by Nathan Englander

Marilyn Baron, Discussion Leader

Saturday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

October 26



Larry is the secular son in a family of Orthodox Brooklyn Jews. When his father dies, it's his responsibility to recite the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, every day for eleven months. To the horror and dismay of his sister, Larry refuses—imperiling the fate of his father's soul. To appease her, Larry hatches an ingenious if cynical plan,

hiring a stranger through a website called kaddish.com to recite the prayer and shepherd his father's soul safely to rest. Sharp, irreverent, and hilarious, Englander's tale of a son who makes a diabolical compromise ingeniously captures the tensions between tradition and modernity.

Read the book and bring a non-meat item to contribute to the potluck.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Hosted at Temple Beth Torah

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - noon

October 20

We have re-visioned our community celebration this year. Join us for a 9:30 a.m. Hoshanah Rabbah service, led by Congregation Am HaYam, as we pray and circle 7 times with our lulavim and etrogim! Followed by sweets and coffee, our children join at 11 a.m. for a Simchat Torah celebration, complete with unrolling the torah scroll, music and dancing. There is a place for every generation as we eat, learn, pray and dance! Temple Beth Torah, Ner Ami, Am HaYam, the Jewish Community of Ojai, and our Federation come together for this event.



STORY DISCUSSION Deborah Pollack

The SHORT of it

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

October 29



November

CREATING GRATITUDE JARS JUST IN TIME FOR THANKSGIVING

Erica Walsh

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

November 12

The purpose of a gratitude jar is to bring about mindfulness and a reminder of blessings throughout the year. For one year, write on slips of paper things you are grateful for, accomplished goals, fun memories, acts of kindness, or any other happy thing you want to remember. Over the year watch the jar fill up with blessings. After the year, open the jar and feel the joy of all the good things that happened. This class will include: a quart size Mason jar, decoration materials and



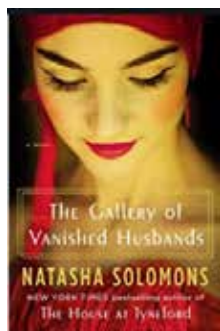
SHABBAT BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK LUNCH

The Gallery of Vanished Husbands
by Natasha Solomons

Alan Kirschbaum, Discussion Leader

Saturday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

January 25



When Juliet Montague's husband disappears on her 23rd birthday, so does she. As far as her Jewish community is concerned, she is invisible, an aguna, until, on her thirtieth birthday, she does something unexpected. Instead of buying a fridge, she impulsively spends her savings on a portrait of herself. The painting leads Juliet out of her suburban shtetl and into the heady art scene of 1960s London, where she proves an astute spotter of talent. Yet she remains an outsider in both her worlds: a mother of two, drawn to a reclusive artist who never leaves rural England, and unable to feel free until she has tracked down her husband – a quest that leads her to California and a shocking discovery. This is the captivating tale of an unusual woman's journey through life, each stage hinged on a portrait, written with infectious verve and humor.

Read the book and bring a non-meat item to contribute to the potluck.

February

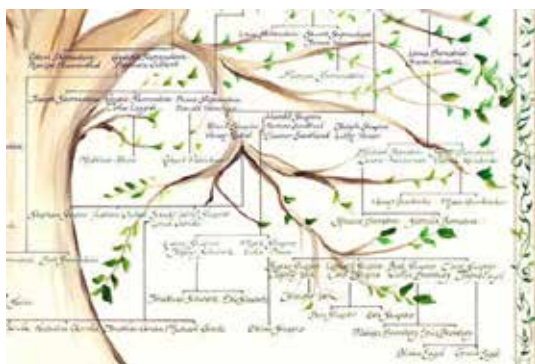
PRESERVING MEMORIES

Pam Small

Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

February 1, 8, & 15

Want to learn more about your family's histories and mysteries? Using her own fascinating progenitors as examples, Pam will demonstrate how to conduct effective genealogical research using online tools. She'll then show us how to use software to create a family tree that can be maintained on your computer or other personal devices. Finally, we'll learn how to digitally store family documents and photographs. Who knows what amazing family secrets you can uncover and pass on to future generations!



CRAFTING MEMORY ALBUMS

Nancy Marcus

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. or 7:00-8:00 p.m.

February 25

We will learn to make digital photo books and cards. We will explore various websites so you will see the variety of options and find the one that works best for you. You will need to bring a laptop or iPad with photos you would like to use (jpg or gif). This class is part of a group of classes on preserving memories.



STORY DISCUSSION

The SHORT of it

Deborah Pollack

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

February 18



March

BAKING HAMENTASCHEN FOR PURIM

DeAnna Scott

Sunday, 12:15-2:00 p.m.

March 1

Bring a bag lunch and join us as we create pastries for Purim, with or without the kids! Let us gather to create some maximum Purim deliciousness as we cut, roll, and fill hamantaschen. Perfect "Haman's pockets" are not guaranteed, but a good time getting ridiculously bathed in flour and jelly are – so bring your apron! Once those delectable, triangular filled cookies come out of the oven, be prepared to taste test your hard work or bring a few home if you care to share!



Materials fee of \$5.

Reserve your place in the class by February 24;
email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

PRAYERS and PSALMS and POEMS, OH MY!

Fern Perusse-Filzen

Saturday, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

March 21 & 28

How does that still, small voice speak to us when we experience a prayer, psalm or poem that inspires us to be creative? Join Fern in exploring Jewish writings that are contained in our very



May

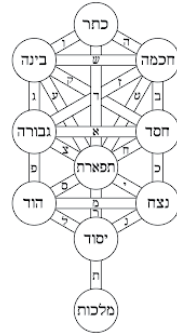
INTRODUCTION TO KABBALAH

Rabbi Mike Lotker

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

May 5, 12, & 19

In our 3 week exploration of the world of Kabbalah we will explore the simple (is it kabb-a-LAH or ka-BAL-ah?) to the deep (how does the interpretation of word "echad" in the Shema affect our understanding of God's nature and our relationship with God?). We will address the history and practices of kabbalah and have lots of time for questions and discussion of this fascinating subject. Our first class will be an introduction to some of the key ideas of Kabbalah and to its interesting history. Class #2 will introduce the central text of Kabbalah, *The Zohar*, which is a work of pseudepigrapha (don't know what that means? Come and find out!). We will discuss the 10 Sefirot, the world of Gematria, the mystical names of God and more. In the next class, we will explore Lurianic Kabbalah, the Soul, Angels, Hasidim and focus on enhancing our own Jewish spirituality.



SHABBAT BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK LUNCH

God: A Biography by Jack Miles

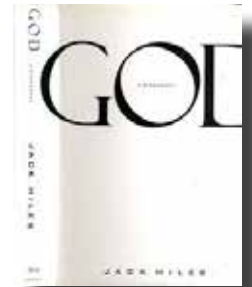
Adam Kaiserman, Discussion Leader

Saturday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

May 16

What sort of "person" is God? What is his "life story"? Is it possible to approach him not as an object of religious reverence, but as the protagonist of the world's greatest book—as a character who possesses all the depths, contradictions, and ambiguities of a Hamlet? This is the task that Jack Miles—a former Jesuit trained in religious studies and Near Eastern languages—accomplishes with such brilliance and originality in *God: A Biography*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Using the Hebrew Bible as his text, Miles shows us a God who evolves through God's relationship with man, the image who in time becomes his rival. Profoundly learned, stylishly written, the resulting work illuminates God and man alike and returns us to the Bible with a sense of discovery and wonder.

Read the book and bring a non-meat item to contribute to the potluck.



TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Hosted by Congregation Am HaYam

Thursday, May 28

Following the tradition that the people were so excited about receiving the Torah the next day at Mt. Sinai that they stayed awake all night and studied, we come together for a night of food, study, prayer and song as we anticipate "chag matan torah", the festival of being gifted with Torah! Jewish Federation will host a dairy dinner as our community rabbis come together to teach Torah.



own Mishkan T'Filah and Torah. We'll delve into imagery, music and art. You'll have a chance to create your own craft piece and share your inspiration with the group.

Materials fee of \$10 payable at registration to Fern Perusse. Class size is limited to 15.

Reserve your place in the class by March 14; email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

April

BEGINNING YIDDISH CONVERSATION

Judy Gottlieb

Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, & 25



Vi zogt men af Yiddish? How do you say it in Yiddish? This spring, we will spend 4 weeks together learning some basics of Yiddish conversation. By the end, we should be able to greet each other, inquire about our health, family and what's for dinner? Together, we will learn a "bisel" and enjoy a lot. Az men zitst in der heym tserayst men nit di shtivl. If you sit at home, you won't wear out your boots.

YOM HASHOAH

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.

Oxnard Performing Arts Center-
New West Symphony



Violins of Hope are a collection of string instruments, each with their own stories from the Holocaust. Lovingly restored by violinmakers Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein.

Violins of Hope is a project created to celebrate the triumph of the human spirit, using a private collection of over 60 instruments all restored since the end of World War II. The violins, violas, and cellos have been collected by the Weinstains since the 1980s, when Amnon was asked to restore a violin that had survived the Holocaust. When he opened the violin, he found black powder, which he discovered was ash from the crematoria at Auschwitz, where it was played by the grandfather of the violin's owner. The Weinstains' collection has grown to 60 instruments, and they have been working to restore these instruments so they may continue to tell the story of their previous owners.

The New West Symphony's Violins of Hope concerts include personal and real stories from local survivors. Look for more information at TBT and Federation for obtaining your tickets.

STORY DISCUSSION

The **SHORT** of it Deborah Pollack

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

April 21



LEARN TO CRAFT FROM A MAVEN!

TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK

Joy Goldowitz

Sunday, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

May 31



Make your very own traveler's notebook using thick felt (lots of colors!) and elastic cording. We will learn how to create two signatures to place inside our notebooks to use for journal entries, sketching, collage, etc. Make one for yourself or give as a gift. Once you make one, you'll want to make more!

\$6.00 materials fee.

Reserve your place in the class by May 24; email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

June

BEADED BRACELETS AND NECKLACES WITH (OPTIONAL) LEATHER PENDANT

Joy Goldowitz

Tuesday, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

June 9



Using seed beads, we will craft a color design on beading wire. We will use crimp beads, and install a clasp. It's fun to wear multiples, and they make great gifts!

\$5.00 materials fee.

Reserve your place in the class by May 24; email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

EMBROIDERED KIPPAH

Joy Goldowitz

Saturday, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

June 13



We'll start with a white, 100% cotton kippah. We will learn several different embroidery stitches and then display those stitches in a unique design on our very own kippah. We'll have a great many colors of embroidery floss from which to choose.

\$8.00 materials fee for first kippah; additional kippot are \$5.00 each (must be ordered when you RSVP for class)

Reserve your place in this class by May 24; email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

MONO PRINTING

Joy Goldowitz

Sunday, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

June 14,



A favorite technique of Andy Warhol; you'll love mono printing! We'll start with a simple picture, perhaps cut from a magazine. Using tape, a bottle of ink, a dip pen, a transparency, and watercolor paper we will trace the image and transfer it to the watercolor paper. We'll then use

watercolors, watercolor pencils, and watercolor crayons to fill in our transferred masterpiece. No drawing experience needed!

\$5.00 materials fee. Reserve your place in the class by May 24; email Deborah Pollack at rp5dp@sbcglobal.net

LET'S EXPERIMENT WITH MAKE-UP AND HAIR

Pam Small & Nancy Marcus

Tuesday & Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

June 16 & 18

Wearing make-up can be intimidating, but it doesn't need to be. Please join Pam Small and Nancy Marcus for a tutorial on applying make-up and French braiding. We will experiment with different types of make-up, exploring what enhances our beauty and the best way to apply it. If you have your own cosmetics and want some tips, please bring them, but it won't be necessary as we will have lots of samples to try! There is nothing to buy and all are welcome!



STORY DISCUSSION

The **SHORT** of it

Deborah Pollack

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

June 23



July

SHABBAT BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK LUNCH

One More River by Mary Glickman

Karen Kinrose, Discussion Leader

Saturday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

July 11

Bernard Levy was always a mystery to the community of Guilford, Mississippi. He was even more of a mystery to his son, Mickey Moe, who was just four years old when his father died in World War II. Now it's 1962 and Mickey Moe is a grown man who must prove his pedigree to the disapproving parents of his girlfriend, Laura Anne Needleman, to win her hand in marriage. With only a few decades-old leads to go on, Mickey Moe sets out to uncover his father's murky past, from his travels up and down the length of the Mississippi River to his heartrending adventures during the Great Flood of 1927. Mickey Moe's journey, taken at the dawn of the civil rights era, leads him deep into the backwoods of Mississippi and Tennessee, where he



meets with danger and unexpected revelations at every turn. As the greatest challenge of his life unfolds, he will finally discover the gripping details of his father's life—one filled with loyalty, tragedy, and heroism in the face of great cruelty from man and nature alike.

Read the book and bring a non-meat item to contribute to the potluck.

THE KOVNO GHETTO RABBINIC COURT

Annette Halpern

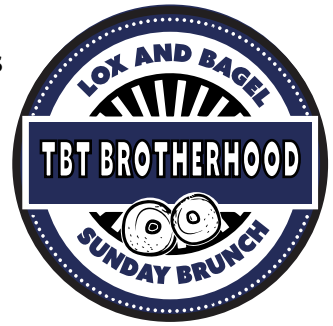
Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

July 18 & 25

During this two-part class we shall explore the dark years of the Holocaust in the Kovno Ghetto where religious Jews were determined to observe the commandments of Jewish law as much as humanly possible. During the German occupation Rabbi Ephraim Oshry managed to record ghetto inhabitants' questions regarding Jewish law with his responses on bits of paper torn from cement sacks which he stored and buried in tin cans for retrieval after the war. Could a Jew buy a Christian baptismal certificate to save his/her life? Might one take the property of deceased neighbors and sell it to raise cash for one's own starving family? Would abortion be permissible given that any Jewish woman found to be pregnant would be killed? We shall discuss these and other unimaginable "choiceless choices" that Jews were forced to confront during

and after the war along with the rabbi's interpretations which were published in a now rare work, *Responsa from the Holocaust*.

Check the Shofar for Brotherhood Bagel Brunches speakers and dates



Youthful Events



THERE IS NO COST FOR THIS CLASS



This program is generously funded by The Jewish Federation of Ventura County

Torah School 2019-2020: Mishpacha Class

Join other families to create lasting relationships as we explore our Jewish world through play, music, movement, stories, crafts and circle time.

☆ Grandparents ☆ Aunts ☆ Uncles ☆ Moms ☆ Dads

Art, Music, Movement & Food!!!

For more information please contact TBT Torah School:

Danielle Stoyanoff ☆ (805) 647-4181 x19 ☆ danielle@templebethtorah.com

Join us on Select Sundays
9:30am Nosh
10am - 11:30am Class

Oct 6, 20

Feb 9

Nov 24

Mar 1, 15

Dec 15

Apr 19

Jan 12, 26

May 3, 17

June 7

Temple Beth Torah's 3rd Fridays

Family Shabbat

Torah School invites our TBT congregation to join us every 3rd Friday for a family-friendly Shabbat service, followed by a BYO dairy dinner. This dinner will be a time for TBT families of all ages and stages to connect and get to know one another and enjoy each others company!

*** PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE ONLY SERVICE ON THIS EVENING.**

6:00pm Family Services

6:45pm BYO Dairy Dinner

	Dec 20	Mar 20
Oct 18	Jan 17	Apr 17
Nov 15	Feb 21	May 15



Professional Staff

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller

Director, Education and Family Programs Marisa Schrier

Director, Early Childhood Education Marion Levin-Welch

Cantorial Soloist, Robin Faigin

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Joel Goldenberg

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Allan Paskin

Sloane Burt

Deborah Pollack

Heidi Sohn

Alberto Kywi

Ron Halpern

Ann Kerman & Kathy Randall



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