



GJC Adult Education Institute

2007-08 Courses

Year-long 2007-08

CENTRE CITY LUNCH & LEARN

Mishnah & Law: How the early rabbis regulated their communities

Rabbi Leonard Gordon

- Wed: 12:15 – 1:30 pm
- 6 Sessions: Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 2
- Location: Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, 1600 Market St., Suite 3600, hosted by Jim Meyer
- GJC Members—\$150 (or \$75/semester) Dairy Lunch incl.
- Non-Members—\$180 (or \$100/semester) Dairy Lunch Incl.
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for Pennsylvania lawyers will be available through the University of Pennsylvania Law School Center on Professionalism for an addition \$50/3 sessions or \$75/year.

How did the first generations of rabbis (writing ca. 220 CE) propose to regulate their communities in the aftermath of the loss of political independence? While much of their formative document, the Mishnah, imagines an ideal state run by Jewish priests and Kings, two chapters of tractate Megillah deal with the administration of communal affairs and the sales of public buildings. What can we learn from these chapters about their world view and approach to law? How does their system compare and contrast to our own? What ethical values are implicit in their legal rulings? All texts will be studied in translation.

This course is supported by a gift from Sandy & Jim Meyer in memory of their parents. This course is cosponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Law School on Professionalism.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program

(Final semester)

Rabbi Fredi Cooper

- Weekly: Wed: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Begins September 5

Open only to those who were previously enrolled.

Fall 2007

Torah Trop mini-course

(within the adult B'nei Mitzvah Program)

Eve Pinkenson

- Wed: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 4 Sessions: Oct 17, Oct 24, Oct 31, Nov 7
- Fee: \$40/\$50

OPEN to ALL (not required to be enrolled in Adult B'nei Mitzvah course)

Early Christianity : an introduction for Jews

Rabbi Leonard Gordon & Dr. Mark Smith (NYU)

- Sun: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- 4 Sessions: Nov 4, Nov 11, Nov 18, Dec 2
- Fee: \$40/\$50

What should Jews know about the history and texts of Early Christianity? Our class will examine Judaism on the eve of Christianity, what we know about the life and teachings of Jesus, how the first Christians learned about Jesus and the meaning of his life and death. Our final session will examine how Christians and Jews read their shared text - the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. No background is assumed, other than an interest in exploring unfamiliar territory.

TEXT: All sources and readings from secondary literature will be distributed in class and texts will be studied in English translation.

WINTER 2008

Muslims & Jews in Dialogue: Understanding the past, talking in the present, looking toward the future

Rabbi Adam Zeff

- Sun: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- 4 Sessions: Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 3
- \$40/\$50

We often see conflict between Muslims and Jews dominating our headlines. How can we understand the relationship between Islam and Judaism, and how can understanding pave the way for hopes of peace? In this class we will learn a bit about the history of Islam, and we will study how Muslims and Jews have related to each other in different historical periods. But we will not confine our studies to the past. We will also enter into dialogue with Muslim guests about how Islam and Judaism are and are not connecting with each other in the present. Together we will try to discover how we might help to shape the future of the relationship between our very different yet closely related religious traditions.

Reading visual art: The perceptual moment and the structure of the image in painting and drawing

Stuart Shils

- Sun: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 4 sessions: Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 3
- Location: Home of Stuart Shils (In Mt. Airy, Near GJC)
- Fee: \$40/\$50

Examine via projected slides, the forms and meanings of selected paintings and drawings from over the centuries. Not a comprehensive survey of art history, but a look at how the image functions from the painter's side of the easel. We will look at both representational and abstract art, and consider the inter-relationship. 20th Century Jewish artists included. Conversation and commentary from participants encouraged and expected, but DO NOT be intimidated, this will not be academic.

(continued on next page)

Registration Form

Please make check payable to GJC and mail to GJC, 400 W. Ellet St., Philadelphia, PA 19119; attn: Adult Education, phone 215-844-1507, Fax 215-844-8309

Name _____ Day phone _____ Eve phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Course name(s) _____ Fee(s) _____

Email _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Spring 2008

From priests & prophets to rabbis: the emergence of rabbinic Judaism

Rabbi Leonard Gordon

- Sun: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- 4 Sessions: Mar 23, Mar 30, Apr 6, Apr 13
- Fee: \$40/\$50

Our American Jewish community lives (and thrives) in the aftermath of a massive catastrophe – the destruction of European Jewry (the Shoah). What lesson does classical Judaism offer our moment concerning how to rebuild? This class will examine what happened to the religion of Biblical Israel in the aftermath of the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE. By examining how our ancestors responded to loss we will think together about our own moment. What can we expect? How can we participate in the production of a new Judaism for our moment? What role do Jewish women, in particular, have to play in the current transformation of Judaism?

TEXT: Notebook of readings to be distributed at the first session.

Mameloshn: Yiddish, then & now

Michael Steinlauf

- Sun: 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- 4 Sessions: Apr 6, Apr 13, May 4, May 11
- Location: Home of Gisha Berkowitz (in Mt. Airy)
- Fee: \$40/\$50

In four Sunday evening sessions, we will examine the past, present and future of Yiddish. Readings will include excerpts from recent books by Benjamin Harshav (*The Meaning of Yiddish*), Michael Wex (*Born to Kvetch*), Dovid Katz (*Words on Fire*), Jeffrey Shandler (*Adventures in Yiddishland*) and Aaron Lansky (*Outwitting History*). No familiarity with Yiddish required.

TEXT: Excerpts will be distributed in class. All books are worthwhile owning – if you are so inclined, consider purchasing them. Aaron Lansky's book is available through the GJC office or the Little Shop at a significant discount.

Reading the Zohar:

entering Jewish mysticism

Rabbi Adam Zeff

- Thurs: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 4 Sessions: May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22
- Location: Germantown Jewish Centre
- Fee: \$60/\$70

The Zohar is the central text of the Jewish mystical tradition, through which people have striven to grow in their understanding of and closeness to the divine. But this text can have a very high barrier to entry, written in a special form of Aramaic and filled with symbolism and opaque references that can obscure the treasures

hidden within. In this class we will read selected parts of the Zohar in its newest English translation, concentrating on how we can connect this medieval text of spiritual seeking to our own spiritual lives. No previous knowledge of the Zohar or its language is required, and all readings will be in English.

Consider purchasing books at the big blue marble bookstore

215-844-1870

If you need to purchase any books for an Adult Ed course you're taking at GJC, please consider doing so at the Big Blue Marble Bookstore (on Carpenter Lane, near corner of Greene St. and the Coop, in Mt. Airy). By doing so you will enjoy a 5% discount on books purchased. This is also a fundraiser for GJC, as the Bookstore will donate 5% of all Adult Ed Book sales back to us. When making your purchases at the Big Blue Marble, don't forget to tell them your books are for an Adult Ed course at GJC.

Community wide Courses

Me'ah

An intensive adult Jewish learning experience conducted by Boston's Hebrew College, approaches Jewish history and Jewish thought through an intelligent and sophisticated *conversation* with core texts. Me'ah is coming to Philadelphia for the first time and is being sponsored by the Center City Kehillah, including Germantown Jewish Centre. Classes begin in the fall of 2007. There is a cost for this program. *For more info go to www.jewishphilly.org/cck and click on Me'ah or contact Catherine Fischer at 215-832-0597 or cfischer@philafederation.org.*

Florence Melton

adult mini school

Sponsored by Gratz College this two-year, once weekly university-level course focuses on Jewish rituals, philosophy, ethics and history. Course is taught at several locations throughout the greater Philadelphia area. *Contact Director, Liz Nover, at 215-635-7300, Ext 143 or LNover@gratz.edu.*

Rabbinical Assembly courses

The Philadelphia Rabbinical Assembly offers a wide array of courses from in-depth classes appropriate for study toward conversion to monthly lunch & learns around town. *For more information about the Rabbinical Assembly lunch & learn programs, please contact Rabbi Gary Charlestein at 610-239-6003. For more information about Intro to Judaism/Conversion courses through the Rabbi Morris Goodblatt Academy, please contact Elana Shaw at GJC.*

Adult Education Institute Policies

- Scholarship assistance is available for all GJC courses and programs.
 - We reserve the right to cancel a course due to lack of registration.
 - If using Visa/MasterCard to pay, there is a 3% processing fee.
 - Please make checks payable to Germantown Jewish Centre.
 - Your canceled check is your receipt.
 - **Refund Policy:** You may request a refund any time before the second class session. We regret that no refunds will be allowed after that time. Please allow two weeks from the time of your refund request to the time you receive your check.
 - **Where fees are listed, the first number is for members, the second for non-members.**
- Quite often Adult Ed courses are added to the GJC calendar as the year progresses. Please see our flyers, weekly e-mails and website for updates. Or contact the office.*