

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

A NIGHT OF LEARNING
FROM EACH OTHER AND
BUILDING SACRED
COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Shavuot celebrates the spring harvest and recalls the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. Rooted in a kabbalistic tradition, Jews all around the world spend the night learning. This year, we'll begin our night with communal singing, followed by collective study on the making of a sacred learning community. We'll daven together, eat and schmooze, and study with teachers from within our community who share what they have learned in the past year. As in years past, there will be an open beit midrash in the library throughout the night, where you are invited to explore a provided text or engage in your own learning. The tikkun leyl is an opportunity to step out of normal time and into the spaciousness of the nighttime hours. Join us for the journey - it is bound to be revelatory.

LET US BEGIN IN THE CHARRY SANCTUARY:

7:30 PM Communal Singing with Andrea Jacobs & Rabbi Bec Richman

We'll gather to sing niggunim (tunes) both with and without words as we close Shabbat and move into our celebration of Shavuot. Come ready to harmonize!

8:00 PM "Making a Spiritual Learning Community" with Rabbi Bec Richman

What does it take to build a spiritual learning community? We'll use excerpts from the Piezetter Rebbe's book, *Chovat HaTalmidim*, as a starting point for exploring pathways to deep, connected communal learning. We'll probe our own ideas about what it means to be in a learning community together, discuss questions that emerge from the text, and create an intentional foundation for the rest of our night of study. All are welcome - we will have texts available in the original and in translation, so everyone will be able to access and deepen their learning.

9:00 PM Ma'ariv with Rabbi Adam Zeff

Please enjoy food & drink in the Charry Lobby following Ma'ariv.

Refreshments will be available in the Youth Lounge from 10:00 PM - 6:00 AM.

EVENING LEARNING: SESSION I

session choices 9:45-10:45 PM

IN THE CHAMBERS OF TORAH: REBBE NACHMAN AND THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM with Rabbi Josh Bolton in room 309

Explore a beautiful example of Rebbe Nachman's meditations on the nature of Torah study and the quest for knowledge in this world. We'll stick to the original text but no prior

SECURITY & THE CRY OF THE OPPRESSED with David Mosenkis in the Maslow Auditorium

The Talmud discusses the pros and cons of building a locked gatehouse in a shared courtyard. How might classic Jewish texts inform how we approach security measures in our synagogues and other communal spaces today?

ANCIENT IMAGES OF THE DIVINE FEMININE with Rachel Davidson in room 305

In this session we will discuss how ancient Israelites may have interacted with the divine feminine, both in officially sanctioned and condemned ways. We will also look at a few images and metaphors that were associated with goddesses of the ancient near east, in order to better understand Israelite practices. We will ultimately look at how this can impact our own theology and practice.

MASORTI SESSION TEXT STUDY: REVELATION with Elizabeth Bloch-Smith & Mark Smith in the Magil Chapel

In the session, we'll study Tanakh, Jubilees, New Testament, and Talmud texts demonstrating the development of Shavuot.

BEIT MIDRASH
9:45 PM-5:00 AM in the Quitman Library
with Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Rabbi Bec Richman,
Hadassah Weinmartin, and Rabbi Adam Zeff

Beit Midrash is an open space for guided or independent learning. Please feel free to come and go.

EVENING LEARNING: SESSION II

session choices 11:00 PM-12:00 AM

HOT OUT OF THE OVEN (OF ACHNAI): FAVORITE TALMUD TALES with Maria Pulzetti & Rabbi Adam Zeff in room 309

Although people often think of it as a book of law, the Talmud is truly a collection of ancient rabbinic teaching on a wide variety of topics, and one of the principle methods that the ancient rabbis use to teach is aggadata: telling stories. Come study some of these creative and perplexing stories that can still teach us much about how we relate to some of the most important parts of our lives and to the divine. All texts will be studied in English, with the original Hebrew/Aramaic versions available for reference. No experience is necessary, AND experienced Talmud students are also welcome!

THE SEFIROT & CREATIVE PRACTICE with Mitch Marcus & Rabbi Bec Richman in the Maslow Auditorium

We will learn about the sefirot, explore how creative process can elevate our experience

ME-TOO IS ALSO A JEWISH ISSUE - GAM-ANI with Rabbi David Teutsch in room 305

News reports and organizational findings demonstrate that Jews have both been perpetrators and victims of sexual harassment and violence. How should we understand this? What does Jewish ethics have to say? And what should we do about it?

THE REVELATION OF SONG: TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT with Andrea Jacobs & Rabbi Alanna Sklover in the Magil Chapel

Song is about revelation, it is about healing, about connection, about community. The beauty and power of this spiritual technology is something that Jews have known and embraced from the earliest time, and is integral to how we understand and mark moments of joy, sorrow, redemption, and revelation. In this session we will raise our voices together in song as vehicle to prepare for our annual moment of receiving Torah.

**COMMUNAL SINGING, FESTIVE SHACHARIT SUNRISE
SERVICE & READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**
5:00 AM in the Maslow Auditorium
with Rabbi Adam Zeff and Rabbi Bec Richman, Nathan Martin leading
Shacharit, and Maria Pulzetti chanting Torah.

TEACHERS & LEADERS



Rabbi Josh Bolton is the incoming Executive Director of Brown RISD Hillel, and former Director of the Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and holds an MFA in poetry from UMass, Amherst. Rabbi Josh and family are proud members of the GJC community. His children include a graduate of and current student in GJC's Early Childhood Program.



Rachel Davidson is a graduate of Oberlin College, with a background in Intimate Partner Violence and working with college students. She hopes to become a hospice chaplain, and is interested in the intersections between health care, spirituality, and justice work. She also is a wife, daughter, and aunt, and enjoys embroidery and hiking in her free time.



Andrea Jacobs is a feminist educator, researcher, and organizational consultant with over 25 years of experience working for change in the non-profit sector. She's also a singer, artist and activist newly recommitted to integrating art into her social justice work and her life. Andrea has spent the better part of her working life learning, leading, and collaborating with others on issues of gender and racial equity and LGBTQ inclusion. She is the managing director and performer for Yes...AND Playback Theater.

She is also a proud member of Voices of Pride choir and cofounder of a women's singing Rosh Hodesh group.



Mitch Marcus is a long-time member of Dorshei Derekh, and a past-president of GJC. His first exposure to Zohar was studying with Danny Matt, the principle translator and commentator of the new Pritzker Zohar edition, exactly 45 years ago at a tikkun leyl Shavuot in 1974. His day job is teaching computer science and artificial intelligence at Penn.

TEACHERS & LEADERS



Rabbi Nathan Martin is the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Media, PA and an active member of the Dorshei Derekh Minyan at Germantown Jewish Centre. He also serves on the board for Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit that works with communities of faith to respond to climate change.



David Mosenkis is a data scientist and social activist. He works as a consultant for Genentech, improving insights into clinical trials data, and as a volunteer activist using data to highlight and address racial bias and other social inequities for POWER Interfaith, where he chairs the Statewide Education Team. His research demonstrating systemic racial bias in PA public school funding has sparked demand to end education apartheid. He serves as GJC's VP of Tikkun Olam, co-chairs GJC's Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team, and is a long-time leader in Dorshei Derekh.



Maria Pulzetti loves studying Torah with her GJC community. When she's not studying Torah, Maria is a staff attorney at Community Legal Services. She formerly worked as an Assistant Federal Defender in the appeals unit at the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, handling capital habeas cases and criminal appeals. She is the former executive director of the Moscow-based Russian Justice Initiative, which represents victims of human rights violations at the European Court of Human Rights. She also co-founded the Day of Silence, a student-led day of action against the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people in schools. Maria is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School.

TEACHERS & LEADERS



Rabbi Rebecca (Bec) Richman is the incoming Assistant Rabbi and Founding Director of Koleinu Beit Midrash at GJC. Bec's rabbinic training included serving as campus rabbi for the Brandeis Reconstructionist Organization, completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Hospital of the University of Penn, working as student rabbi at GJC, and participating in T'ruah's Year in Israel Fellowship. Bec is a Wexner Graduate Fellow and a participant in the Jewish Studio Project's inaugural Creative Facilitator Training. Bec is a soferet (scribe), Hebrew calligrapher, ceramicist, mikveh shomeret, carrier and singer of niggunim (wordless melodies), bread baker, and triathlete. Bec and her partner, Josh, live in sunny, West Philadelphia with their sweet son, Netta Nissim.



Rabbi Alanna Sklover is the Director of Lifelong Learning at GJC. She brings her enthusiasm for creative Jewish education and a passion for creating and holding space for mindful, authentic and resonant Jewish community to every aspect of her rabbinate - whether singing with 5 year-olds, studying with a B'nei Mitzvah student, or leading a Shabbat service. Rabbi Sklover is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College ('13) and lives in Mt Airy with her wife Rebecca and their daughter Bina.



Liz Bloch-Smith and Mark Smith, long-time members of GJC and Minyan Masorti, both teach Bible/Tanakh at Princeton Theological Seminary.

TEACHERS & LEADERS



Rabbi David A. Teutsch is Wiener professor emeritus at RRC, where he served as president for a decade, and later as director of the Center for Jewish Ethics. He is the editor in chief of the groundbreaking Kol Haneshamah prayer book series and of a three-volume Guide to Jewish Practice. He earned his A.B. from Harvard University, his ordination from HUC-JIR in New York, and his PhD at the Wharton School. He has been a member of GJC since 1986, and is a founding member of Dorshei Derekh; he served on the GJC board for nine years.



Hadassah "Dasi" Weinmartin is a seventh grade student at Greenwoods Charter School. She is an active member at GJC and recently has been organizing to start a NW Philly hub for the Sunrise movement which is a young person led activist movement to stop climate change and create green jobs.



Rabbi Adam Zeff has served Germantown Jewish Centre since 2002. At GJC, Rabbi Zeff loves telling stories, teaching Torah, singing and playing music, working for justice, and talking, laughing, and learning with the people around him. His core conviction is that diversity in Jewish life and in the wider world is the truest expression of the divine. He and his wife, Cheryl, a public health physician, live in Mt. Airy, where they raised three sons, Zeke, Avi, and Mati.



Denise Wolf
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Thank you so much for joining us tonight!

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