



Many voices. *One song.*

SHIR EDUCATION 5780 • 2019-2020

PATHWAYS TO A MEANINGFUL

Jewish Life

5780 is going to be an exciting year for Lifelong Learning at Shir Ami! We are expanding in new and different directions, cognizant of the fact that there are many pathways to deepen our connections to Jewish wisdom individually and collectively. Whether you take one, two or all of these pathways, we wish you an amazing adventure and look forward to learning both with you and from you along the way!



SHIR AMI

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Our Guiding Lights

Shir Ami's four *Guiding Lights* mark our Lifelong Learning path throughout the year. These *Guiding Lights* reflect Shir Ami's mission statement and provide multiple points of entry for people to learn about, and deepen their connection to, Judaism/living a Jewish life. A partner text corresponds to each *Guiding Light* providing insight into why each one was chosen. We hope that the year ahead will be brightened by our learning together as one Shir Ami family!

(Text) Learning - Torah

בֵּן בָּג בָּג אָוֶר, הַפְּדֵבָה וְהַפְּדֵבָה, זְכַלְא בָהָ

Ben Bag Bag says: Turn Torah over and over, for you will find all in it.

(*Pirke Avot* 5:22)

Israel - Yisrael

As long as in the heart, within,
A Jewish soul still yearns,
And onward, towards the ends of the east,
an eye still gazes toward Zion;

Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope two thousand years old,
To be a free nation in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

-*HaTikvah*, Naftali Herz Imber

כָל עַד בְּלִבְבָּשׁ פְּנִימָה
גַּנְפֵשׁ יְהוָדִי הַמִּיחָה,
וּלְפָאַתִּי מַזְרָח קָדִימָה,
עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צָפִיהָ;

עַד לֹא אָבֹה תְּקֻוֹתָנוּ,
הַתְּקֻוָה בַת שְׁנָוֹת אַלְפִים,
לְהִיּוֹת עִם קְפַשְׁתִּי בָּאַרְצָנוּ,
אָרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

Social Justice - Tzedek

אֶזְקָק אֶזְקָק תְּרַדְךָ

"Justice, Justice, you shall pursue..." (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Culture - Tarbut

"There are other cultures, other civilizations, other peoples, other faiths. Each has contributed something unique to the total experience of mankind. Each, from its own vantage point, has been chosen. But this is ours. This is our faith, our people, our heritage". (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Radical Then, Radical Now*)

Calendar at a Glance

Thurs, Oct 24 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Sun, Nov 3 - **Arts and Culture Series: Freedom Song** - 2pm

Thurs, Nov 7 - **Social Justice Series: Immigration Justice** - 7pm

Tues, Nov 12 - **Ethics Series: Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue Pt. 1** - 7:15pm

Tues, Nov 19 - **Ethics Series: Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue Pt. 2** - 7:15pm

Thurs, Nov 21 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Thurs, Dec 5 - **Arts and Culture Series: Life's Accessories** - 7pm

Thurs, Dec 19 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Thurs, Jan 9 - **Social Justice Series: Reproductive Justice** - 7pm

Thurs, Jan 16 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Tues, Jan 28 - **Arts and Culture Series: The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 1** - 7pm

Thurs, Feb 13 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Tues, Feb 18 - **Arts and Culture Series: The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 2** - 7pm

Tues, Feb 25 - **Ethics Series: Ethics of Honesty Session #1** - 1pm

Thurs, Mar 5 - **Social Justice Series: Racial Justice** - 7pm

Thurs, Mar 12 - **Social Justice Series: Gun Violence Prevention/Justice** - 7pm

Thurs, Mar 19 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Tues, Mar 24 - **Ethics Series: Ethics of Honesty Session #2** - 1pm

Thurs, Mar 26 - **Arts and Culture Series: In Search of Israeli Cuisine Pt. 1** - 6pm

Fri, Mar 27 - **Slomovitz/Hudes Scholar-in-Residence** - Rabbi Andrea Weiss - 7:30pm

Thurs, Apr 2 - **Arts and Culture Series: In Search of Israeli Cuisine Pt. 2** - 6pm

Thurs, Apr 23 - **Arts and Culture Series: Beneath the Helmet** - 7pm

Tues, Apr 28 - **Ethics Series: Ethics of Honesty Session #3** - 1pm

Thurs, Apr 30 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Tues, May 5 - **Arts and Culture Series: The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 3** - 7pm

Thurs, May 7 - **Social Justice Series: Environmental Justice** - 7pm

Thurs, May 14 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Thurs, May 21 - **Arts and Culture Series: Killing a King** - 7pm

Tues, May 26 - **Ethics Series: Ethics of Honesty Session #4** - 1pm

Thurs, June 11 - **iEngage** - 7pm

Dates and times subject to change

Arts and Culture Series

'Freedom Song' (Social Justice)

Sunday, November 3 - 2:00-4:00pm

NJHA Conference & Event Center, Princeton, NJ

- in partnership with Jewish Family and Children Services



Freedom Song is a transformative musical that shatters the myth of Jews being immune to addiction. The cast of *Freedom Song* are actual addicts in recovery that are affiliated with California's Beit T'Shuva's treatment program. Using song and dance, tears and laughter, *Freedom Song* will open your eyes to the real-life struggle against the 'bondage of self' that we fight every day.

Life's Accessories Book Event with Rachel Levy Lesser

Thursday, December 5 - 7:00-9:00pm

- in partnership with Jewish Family and Children Services

Shir Ami's own Rachel Levy Lesser can relive almost every significant life event through an accessory. A scarf, a pair of earrings, a bag, even a fleece pair of socks - each contains the elements that put together the story of a life. *Life's Accessories* is a funny, sad, touching, relatable, shake-your-head-right-along-as-you-laugh-and-wipe-away-tears, coming-of-age memoir. In fourteen essays, Lesser tackles sensitive issues like anxiety, illness, and loss in a way that feels a bit like having a chat with a good friend.... *Life's Accessories* is a window into the many ways in which Lesser has come to understand life - in all of its beauty, its joys, its sorrows, its heartaches, its challenges, and its absurdity.

Welcoming Shabbat: A Musical Adventure (Israel/Social Justice/Text)

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm

January 28, February 18, and May 5

Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

Each Friday evening, services begin with a series of psalms and songs collectively known as *Kabbalat Shabbat* (*The Welcoming of Shabbat*). Developed in Tzfat, *Kabbalat Shabbat* melodies have spread throughout the world and have been influenced by the wide and varied experiences of Jews throughout history. Please join us on our musical adventure as we sing, learn and pray together!

Arts and Culture Series

In Search of Israeli Cuisine (Israel)

Thursdays – 6:00-8:00pm

March 26 and April 2

Rabbi Eric Goldberg

In this film, award-winning chef Michael

Solomonov goes on a journey *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*. Profiling chefs, home cooks, farmers, vintners, and cheese makers drawn from the multitude of cultures that make up Israel today - Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze - a rich, complex human story emerges.



On both evenings, participants will have the opportunity to watch part of the film and make one recipe from the award-winning book *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking*, written by Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook.

Beneath the Helmet (Israel)

Thursday, April 23 – 7:00-9:00pm

Dave Clark; Rabbi Eric Goldberg; Ken Levine; Rebecca Weiss



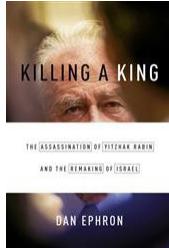
This documentary tells a coming of age story that highlights five young Israeli high school graduates who are drafted into the army to defend their country. At the age of 18, these young individuals undergo a demanding journey, revealing the core of who they are and who they want to be.

Following the film, we will have the opportunity to hear from Shir Ami members who have and/or are currently serving in the United States or Israeli military. Our speakers will share their experience and answer questions from the audience.

Killing a King Book Discussion (Israel)

Thursday, May 21 – 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg



The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin remains the single most consequential event in Israel's recent history, and one that fundamentally altered the trajectory for both Israel and the Palestinians. In *Killing a King*, Dan Ephron relates the parallel stories of Rabin and his stalker, Yigal Amir, over the two years leading up to the assassination, as one of them planned political deals he hoped would lead to peace, and the other plotted murder.

Ethics Series

Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue (*Text*)

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30pm

November 12 & 19

Rabbi Elliot Strom

A wealthy member offers a large sum of money to help the congregation build a new sanctuary. The congregation needs the money. But congregational leaders know this member has amassed his wealth as a slum landlord. What should they do?

The president of the synagogue threatens to resign unless her son-in-law is named to the board. What should the board do?

A synagogue member has asked for and received dues relief. Some time later, the synagogue's president meets this member in the parking lot of an upscale restaurant. The member is driving an expensive car he purchased that day. What should the president do?

These are the kinds of ethical dilemmas synagogues deal with every day. The way we resolve these dilemmas says a great deal about who we are, the community we want to create, and the kinds of Jews we want to be.

In this course, we'll have an opportunity to talk about ethical decision-making in the congregation. We'll learn about how such decisions ought to be made. We'll look at Jewish texts that will help us decide the right thing to do. We'll learn about how ethical community is built, and in the process, we'll learn a little bit more about ourselves.

Ethics of Honesty (*Culture/Text*)

Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30pm

February 25, March 24, April 28 and May 26

Rabbi Paula Goldberg



Rashi, the great rabbi, taught it is no accident the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is *aleph*, the middle letter *mem*, and the last letter *tav*. Those three together spell the word *emet*, meaning truth. This teaches us that God is present wherever truth is present and God is absent wherever truth is absent.

Ethics of Honesty sessions focus on the idea of truth/honesty by delving into Jewish texts on four topics essential to our daily lives:

- a) Honesty in Business
- b) Honesty with Ourselves
- c) Honesty in Financial and Economic Decisions We Make
- d) Honesty in Individual and Communal Relationships We Have

Please join us for a look at the ways in which Jewish texts and values can guide our personal, business and family lives.

iEngage

iEngage (*Israel/Culture*)

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm

October 24, November 21, December 19, January 16,
February 13, March 19, April 30, May 14, and June 11

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

Tribes of Israel: A Shared Homeland for a Divided People

The Tribes of Israel is a video lecture series and discussion, created by the Shalom Hartman Institute, (www.hartman.org.il). This course confronts the challenge of creating a Jewish and democratic public space in the modern State of Israel—a shared common space for a people divided along “tribal” affiliations: religious, ideological, national, and geographic.

The Tribes of Israel begins a conversation to restructure the relationship between the collective and the individual tribes that comprise Israel.

There will be nine iEngage classes throughout the year. Cost is \$36 for materials.



שלום הרטמן
SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Social Justice Learning Series



Shir Ami is a proud Brit Olam congregation, partnering with the Religious Action Center (RAC) "to create a world in which all people experience wholeness, justice, and compassion". In 5780, five classes will focus on issues connected to creating this world and learning about how to do so through Jewish text. The five classes reflect the five areas of Justice outlined by the RAC for 2019-2020/5780.

(Social Justice/Text)

Immigration Justice

Thursday, November 7 - 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

The Torah speaks about the treatment of the stranger over 30 times. In Leviticus we are taught: "You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike: for I, Adonai, am your God" (24:22). In Exodus we read: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress them, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (22:20). Using texts, both ancient and modern, we will investigate what Jewish tradition has to teach on issues connected to immigration and how we can use those teachings in our lives each and every day.

Reproductive Justice

Thursday, January 9 - 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg

At the beginning of the Torah, one human being (Adam) was created. This idea has spawned many important teachings in Jewish tradition, not the least of which is that every human life is of infinite value. But when does life begin? How do we determine the value of life should challenges arise during pregnancy? These questions, and many others, will be addressed and investigated through the use of sacred and rabbinic texts.

Social Justice Learning Series

Racial Justice

Thursday, March 5 - 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

In a speech given in 1963, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said: "The Bible does not say, God created the plant or the animal; it says, God created different kinds of plants, different kinds of animals (Genesis 1: 11-12, 21-25). In striking contrast, it does not say, God created different kinds of man, men of different colors and races; it proclaims, God created one single man. From one single man all men are descended. To think of man in terms of white, black, or yellow is more than an error. It is an eye disease, a cancer of the soul."

Please join us as we explore issues connected to race through Jewish sacred texts, words of wisdom that have guided our people and personal anecdotes.

Gun Violence Prevention/Justice

Thursday, March 12 - 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg

"[T]hey shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not take up sword against nation; They shall never again know war" (Isaiah 2:4). The prophet Isaiah is speaking about his vision for a perfected world. A world in which weapons are put down and war is replaced by peace. How does this text (and many others in Jewish tradition) inform our view on gun violence in America and throughout the world? Does the Torah and/or Jewish tradition permit or forbid Jews to own guns? These questions (and many others) will be addressed, investigated and discussed in a meaningful, modern way.

Environmental Justice

Thursday, May 7 - 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg and Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

In the Midrash, we read that after God created Adam, God led Adam through all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you" (Kohelet Rabbah 7:13).

Human beings are commanded to watch over the world. But what does it mean to not *corrupt* or *destroy* it? Are there specific commandments and values that should guide how and in what measure we direct our efforts? Join us for an evening of text study, song and discussion on this timely and topical issue.

Slomovitz/Hudes Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Andrea Weiss

Friday, March 27 - 7:30pm



Dr. Andrea Weiss is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Dr. Weiss was ordained at HUC-JIR and received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008). She also created a highly innovative response to the emerging political landscape known as *American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters*.

Dr. Weiss' leadership has helped reshape curriculum for the rabbinical program across HUC-JIR's campuses. She developed the Worship Working Group in 2003 and has continued to oversee this group of students and faculty who work together to reflect on and improve worship there. She has played a leadership role in major initiatives such as the Spirituality Initiative of the New York School, the Mandel Initiative in Building Capacity for Visionary Leadership, and the annual New York *Kallah*.

Join us for Shabbat evening services and words of wisdom and inspiration from Dr. Weiss.

The Lifelong Learning committee and clergy of Shir Ami invite you to be inspired and rekindle your knowledge and love for Jewish Learning.

Course Registration

Registration is requested so that adequate space and material can be prepared. Courses are free for Shir Ami members. A donation is requested from non-members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

I am interested in: _____

Be A "Keeper Of Jewish Excellence"

"Get yourself a teacher, find someone to study with, judge everyone favorably."
- Pirke Avot

We extend an invitation for you to become a Keeper of Jewish Excellence. Supporting all of the important mitzvot of learning and prayer allow us to continue our Lifelong Learning commitments.

\$500 \$250 \$180 \$100 other

Please make checks payable to Shir Ami

Mail to: Shir Ami - Lifelong Learning • 101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA 18940



