



Limmud 2018-2019

opportunities for jewish learning and spiritual development

Talmud Torah

Mishneh Torah

Monday-Friday / Following Shacharit at 6:30 am

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

In this class we will study select laws from the Mishneh Torah, identify the legal principles upon which these laws are based, and discuss the ways in which these laws and principles might be applied in a contemporary context. Texts are provided in Hebrew and English and new students are always welcome.

Parashat HaShavua

Shabbat / 8:30 am

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

In this class we will study the Parashat HaShavua guided by the interpretations of the classic commentators, and deepen our understanding of the Torah and its meaning. Texts are provided in Hebrew and English and new students are always welcome.

Talmud Study

Mondays / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / Starting October 8

Taught by: Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Avraham

Please join us each week as we study the Talmud, the foundation collection of rabbinic law and lore. We begin each session studying the text with a partner, and then engage in a larger group discussion. This class is suitable for students of all levels. Texts are available in English and new students are always welcome.

Mussar

Monthly Mussar Shmuess

Select Shabbatot / Following Kiddush / Dates TBA

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

An inspiring, and often challenging, talk on issues related to improving our character and behavior and achieving our full potential as human beings created in the image of God.

Have an idea for a class? Let us know! We want to teach what you want to learn!

Liturgy

Tradition, Interpretation, and Change - Developments in the Liturgical Traditions of Ashkenaz

Tuesdays / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / Starting October 9

Taught by: Rabbi Ken Berger

We tend to think of the prayers that we recite daily and on Shabbat as always having been there, at least since the Talmudic period. It is true that the basic structure, and even much of the wording, of the Shabbat and weekday services was fixed by the end of the tenth century.

However, the liturgy of the Jews of Ashkenaz was never static. It has continued to evolve until our own time. Prayers were added, even as the continued recitation of ancient prayers was challenged as the conditions of Jewish life changed. In his forthcoming book, *Tradition, Interpretation, and Change*, Rabbi Berger argues that the way in which a prayer or practice was understood often had a profound effect on the determination as to whether and when it was to be recited, as well as on the prayer's specific wording.

Over the course of this year, we will study some of our most familiar prayers, such as Aleinu, the Mourner's Kaddish, the prayers recited when we take out and return the Torah, as well as some that are less well known. When examining these prayers and liturgical practices, we will ask: Why do we recite this prayer or perform this ritual? What function does this prayer serve? What is the anticipated, or hoped for effect of its recitation? We will see how our siddur was influenced by such factors as new cultural currents and technological advances (such as the invention of the printing press), by the migration of German Jews to Eastern Europe and Spanish exiles into Northern Europe, as well as commonly-held beliefs in demons and in an afterlife.

Biblical Literature

The Story Of The Hebrew Bible

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / November 26

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

The Hebrew Bible is not a book, but a carefully curated collection of books, each of which has its own story to tell, but which together tell a much larger story about the history and the destiny of the Jewish People. In this class we will present an overview of each of the books of the Hebrew Bible and, in doing so, discover the story that they seek to tell.

Rabbinic Literature

The Foundational Genres of Rabbinic Literature

Mondays / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / February 25, March 4 & March 11

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

In this three-part class we will develop a sophisticated understanding of the three foundational genres of Rabbinic Literature - Mishnah, Midrash, and Gemara - through a combination of lectures and the guided study of texts from each genre.

Jewish Thought

Are The Jewish People God's Chosen People?

Monday / 8:30 am - 9:30 am / December 17

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

In this class we will explore the idea that the Jewish People are God's Chosen People, examining the different ways that this idea has been expressed throughout history, and discussing the implications of this idea for our own lives.

The Centrality of the Land of Israel

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / April 8

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

It is easy to understand the political importance of the land of Israel, but what is its spiritual importance? In this class we will look at both classical and contemporary texts in order to better understand the spiritual importance of the land of Israel and the central role that it plays in our relationship with God.

Is the Torah the Word of God?

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / May 20

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

The Torah is the foundation of our relationship with God. But is the Torah actually the word of God? In this class, we will explore this question, along with related questions about the nature of the Torah, and discuss how our answers help determine the nature of our relationship with God.

**Do you have a friend who is not a member of Moriah
who wants to come learn with you? Bring them!**

Jewish Law

Mourning Customs For The Moriah Community

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / January 14

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

More than perhaps any other areas of Jewish life, there is considerable variation among rabbis regarding the customs of mourning. In this class, Rabbi Kramer will share his views on these customs and answer questions about how we should conduct ourselves in our community.

The Halakhic Process

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / May 6

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

In 1985, Rabbi Morris Shapiro z”l was asked a question that he had never been asked before: If someone has been cremated, is it permissible to bury their ashes in a Jewish cemetery, and if so, is it permissible for a rabbi officiate at the burial? In this class, we will study the written text of Rabbi Shapiro’s answer to this question as a way to better understand the complex process through which questions of halakha are answered.

Jewish History

Behind the Masks and Under the Capes: The Jewishness of Superheroes

Wednesdays / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / Starting October 10

Taught by: Bruce Ogron

Created largely by Jews, superheroes are much more than dynamic, otherworldly characters. In this class, we will strip these larger than life beings of their costumes and identities and discover Jewish values and traits hidden beneath. We will trace the origins and development of conventional, and non-conventional, superheroes from 16th century Europe to modern times. Even if you have never read a comic book or watched an action film, you are sure to enjoy our critical examination of this popular genre.

The History and Mystery of the Basel Talmud

Monday / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / February 11

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

Rabbi Kramer recently acquired a single volume of a Talmud printed in Basel, Switzerland in 1578, which contains a number of unusual features and obscure inscriptions. In this class, Rabbi Kramer will share what he has discovered about the history and the mystery of this nearly 500 year old book.

Bringing Nazi War Criminals to Justice: An Examination of the Nuremberg and Eichman Trials

Wednesdays / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm / Starting March 27

Taught by: Bruce Ogron

In this class, we will study how Nazi war criminals were brought to justice following the war by focusing on their capture, interrogation and prosecution. We will evaluate the evidence and examine the prosecution's strategies for bringing the most notorious defendants to justice. The course will conclude with the class presentation of the Eichmann trial in late spring. Class attendance is required to participate in this dramatization.

Discussion Groups

The Moriah Women's Rosh Chodesh Study Group

Shabbat / After Kiddush / Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 8, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

Facilitated by: Elizabeth Ury and Greta Rothschild

The Moriah Women's Rosh Chodesh Study group, now in its tenth year, is an opportunity for the women of Moriah to get together to learn with, and from, each other. All women of Moriah are invited to participate in this wonderful learning experience.

Moriah Movie Night

Wednesdays / 7:30 pm / Sep 26, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5, Feb 6, Apr 3, May 8 & 29

Facilitated by: Arnie Landis

Moriah Reads!

Shabbat / Following Kiddush

Facilitated by: Irene Sufrin

October 13: Eternal Life, Dara Horn

December 1: The Weight of Ink, Rachel Kadish

February 9: The Worlds We Think We Know, Dara Rosenfeld

March 30: The Ruined House, Ruby Namdar

May 18: The Children's Crusade, Marcel Schwob

Want to teach a class or lead a discussion group? Let us know!

Hebrew

Intermediate Conversational Hebrew

Session 1 / Mondays / October 15 - December 10 / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Session 2 / Mondays / January 14 - March 11 / 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Taught by: Silvi Freedson

Join us for conversational Hebrew classes in a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere led by Silvi Freedson, principal of Be'ivrit. Silvi is a native Hebrew speaker, and is highly experienced with helping adult learners break through language barriers. Students will learn Hebrew through Israeli literature, current events, cinema and songs! **Registration required. \$90 fee for non-members**

For Parents

Talking to Young Children About Loss

Tuesday / November 6 / 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Taught by: Mindy Botbol

Explaining loss to our children is inevitable. The loss may be the death of a family member, a friend, or a pet. The loss may be a best friend moving far away or your own family leaving a current home for a new one. What are some guidelines and practices to help us as we cope with loss while also helping our children understand it in a meaningful way? Please join us to explore these topics and share some practical and meaningful ways to support our children.

For Parents & Children

Family Learning Programs at The Moriah Family School

Select Sundays / 10:45-11:30 am

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

Join Rabbi Kramer for a morning of fun and engaging learning with your child.

Oct 28: Kindergarten and First Dec 2: Second and Third March 10: Fourth and Fifth

Sixth Grade Bnei Mitzvah Classes

Sundays // 9:00 am - 11:30 am // October 14, November 4, February 10, April 7

Taught by: Lori & Rabbi Ben Kramer

For Teens

Community Learning Programs for 8th-12th Grade Students

Sunday / 5:30 pm / October 28 & March 3

This year Moriah, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, and Congregation Beth Shalom will be working together to put on two special programs for students in 8th-12th grade. Please save the dates! More information will be forthcoming.

Moving Traditions

Sundays / Once A Month / Starting August 26

Facilitated by: Alex Zuber (Rosh Chodesh) and Sam Grobart (Shevet Achim)

Moving Traditions emboldens teens by fostering self-discovery and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning. Through supportive peers, an inspiring adult mentor, and of course your love and support as a parent, we aspire to empower your teen to grow into a healthy, successful, and connected Jewish adult. **Registration and fee required. Contact Karen Ebroon for more info: kebroon@moriahcong.org.**

Moriah Teen Beit Midrash

Select Tuesdays / 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

A weekly learning opportunity for Moriah teens in 8th-12th grade, designed for both public and day school students. Sign up for an individual session (\$100 each) or for all four sessions (\$360). **Please contact the office to register.**

Session 1: October 16, 23, 30, November 6

Topic: Jewish Identity

Teacher: Lori Kramer

Session 2: January 8, 15, 22, 29

Topic: Social Justice

Teacher: Greta Rothschild

Session 3: February 26, March 5, 12, 19

Topic: Understanding Israel

Teacher: Rabbi Kramer

Session 4: April 30, May 7, 14, 21

Topic: Current Events Through a Jewish Lens

Teacher: Greta Rothschild

Shabbat Study & Discussion Group

Shabbat / After Kiddush / Starting October 13

Facilitated by: David Kleinerman

This is a wonderful opportunity for Post-Bnei Mitzvah students to come together for 30 to 45 minutes, in a relaxed atmosphere, to learn and discuss a range of topics, often ones suggested by the students themselves. All students are welcome on any Shabbat.

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

From Sinai to Seinfeld: Jews and Their Jokes

Wednesdays / 9:30 am - 11:00 am / Starting September 5 (10 Sessions)

Taught by: Lori Kramer

A treasure of irresistible jokes from the Israelite relationship with God to the growing divide between cultural and religious Judaism in the early 21st century. Treating Jewish jokes as text, the course invites students to analyze and interpret the evolving concerns, styles, rhythms, preoccupations, and values of the Jewish people that lie buried deep in words that make us laugh as Jews, and that bond us as a people. **Registration required.**

Jewish Denominations: Challenges of Modernity

Wednesdays / 9:30 am - 11:00 am / Starting January 9 (10 Sessions)

Taught by: Rabbi Ben Kramer

This course examines Jewish identity and religious expression against the backdrop of dramatic political and social change. Students gain extensive insights into the historical and ideological developments of the major movements, and explore the impact of gender, assimilation, Israel, and post-denominationalism on the movements and the Jewish people. **Registration required.**

Bereshit I: From Adam to Abraham: The First 20 Generations

Thursdays / 9:30 am - 11:00 am / Starting September 6 (10 Sessions)

Taught by: Betsy Dolgin Katz

The stories take us from the universal tales of the creation of the world, the flood, and the Tower of Babel to the foundational tales of Abraham and Sarah, and the beginnings of the Jewish people. The themes of family and faith, honor and dishonor, passion and power provide a rich exploration of our people and ourselves. **Registration required.**

The Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries and Memoirs

Thursdays / 9:30 am - 11:00 am / Starting January 10 (10 Sessions)

Taught by: Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Avraham

Students explore the profound record of first-person accounts in diaries and memoirs uncovered in the years since the Holocaust, and gain remarkable insights into the struggle for life as both young and old writers describe day-to-day life coping in the ghettos, imprisoned in the death camps, hiding on the run, and fighting for their lives. **Registration required.**

TO REGISTER FOR ALL MELTON CLASSES PLEASE CALL 847.291.7788 x1321.

Moriah Speaker Event

Dennis Prager

Sunday / March 10

Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk show host, a New York Times best selling author on issues of politics and religion, and a tireless advocate for Israel and the Jewish people. An influential thinker, Mr. Prager is the founder of Prager University, an educational website which has surpassed over one hundred million views. An engaging and provocative speaker, this is an event that you will not want to miss. **Sponsorship opportunities available!**

Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Mychal Springer

October 26 & 27 / Friday Night / Shabbat Morning / Shabbat After Kiddush

Rabbi Mychal Springer holds the Helen Fried Kirshblum Goldstein Chair in Professional and Pastoral Skills at The Jewish Theological Seminary and oversees the Certificate in Pastoral Care & Counseling. Rabbi Springer is also the director of the Center for Pastoral Education at JTS, which she founded in 2009, which established relationships with hospices, Jewish social service agencies, and—most recently—prisons and reentry facilities, and enables students to learn the art of pastoral care as they serve marginalized populations.

JUF Speaker Event

Speaker To Be Announced

Wednesday / May 1 / 7:00 pm

Save the date for our annual JUF Speaker Event and Dessert Reception. This is an opportunity to hear from an engaging speaker on issues of relevance to the Jewish Community, and to support the important work of JUF.

Questions? Comments? Let us know!

AIPAC Speaker Event

Speaker To Be Announced

Wednesday / February 20 / 7:00 pm

Save the date for our annual AIPAC Speaker Event. This is an opportunity to hear from an engaging speaker on issues related to Israel and the relationship between Israel and America. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the AIPAC Policy Conference taking place in March.

AIPAC Policy Conference

2019 AIPAC Policy Conference

March 24-26 / Washington DC

Be a part of the Moriah Delegation to the 2019 AIPAC Policy Conference, the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community. Through demonstrations of groundbreaking Israeli innovations, keynote speeches by American and Israeli leaders, inspiring moments on stage, and intimate educational sessions, Policy Conference delegates experience the full scale of pro-Israel activism in three powerful days. The conference culminates with the opportunity for delegates to lobby their members of Congress in support of legislation that enhances the relationship between the United States and Israel. To register, or for more information, go to aipac.org. **Financial assistance is available.**

Last year we had our largest delegation ever, and the second largest in all of Chicago!

In recognition of our growing presence at Policy Conference, an exclusive educational session has been arranged just for our delegation. You do not want to miss out on this amazing experience. Join us at Policy Conference 2019!

Hadar Institute

2019 Executive Seminar

July 7-11 2019 / New York City

Travel to NYC with members of Moriah for a stimulating week of study at Hadar Institute, where we will explore deep issues in our lives as Jews through the lens of Torah, and connect with an incredible network of Jews, working together to build bolder, more ambitious, and more meaningful Jewish lives. For more information visit hadar.org. Financial assistance is available.