

Exploring Black & Jewish Experience: A Conversation about Convergence, led by Anthony Mordekhai Tzvi Russell

Co-facilitated with Rabbi Polisson

Three Tuesdays from 7:30-9pm

November 24, December 1, December 8

Description:

Session One: *Spiritual Redemption* explored in religious texts and musical lyrics.

Tracks: *Water and Zion (Adoration of the Ancestral Shrine)*

In Session One, we will explore Israeli folksong, African American spirituals and 19th century synagogue music as an entry into a discussion about the relationship between biblical narratives, prophecy and ethnic visions of redemption.

Session Two: *Minority Experience* - expressed in poetry and music.

Tracks: *Stranger* and *Rosie*

In Session Two, we will explore a yeshiva student's lament, a folk hymn, a melody for newlyweds and a song for prison laborers as an entry into a discussion touching on W.E.B. DuBois's poignant question concerning life as a minority: How does it feel to be a problem?

Session Three: *Navigating Oppression* - towards hope and action.

Tracks: *Horses* and *Lift*

In Session Three, we will explore lullabies featuring absent parents, a song about the metaphorical end of Czarist oppression and the "Black National Anthem" as an entry into a discussion about life under systems of oppression and what hopes for a better future continue to look like for the historically oppressed.