



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FALL/WINTER 2020

SEMESTER'S FACULTY

SPECIAL PRE-HIGH HOLIDAYS PROGRAMS



**RABBI ELLIOT SALO
SCHOENBERG**
BOOK OF JONAH



TAMMY JACOBOWITZ, PH.D.
TIME TO TEAR &
A TIME TO MEND

OCTOBER



DANIEL MATT, PH.D.
A TASTE OF
KABBALAH

NOVEMBER



RABBI ERIC WISNIA
TWO PROPHETS SPEAK
TRUTH TO POWER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



REV. DR. DEBORAH BLANKS
CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HOW IT
APPLIES TO THE MAJOR
ISSUES OF OUR TIME

DECEMBER



RABBI BRADLEY ARTSON, PH.D.



RABBI ELLIOT COSGROVE, PH.D.



RABBI ANNIE TUCKER

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE FUTURE OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

MODERATED BY RABBI ELLIOT SALO SCHOENBERG



INTRODUCTION

Dear Congregant:

The Jewish Center has a long history of offering its members a wide variety of informative and thought-provoking Adult Education programs. With the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, we have switched to virtual delivery of our programs which are open to all without charge.

When the pandemic struck, we produced a series of YouTube videos to fill the void created by canceling the live classes we had scheduled for the past semester. During this past summer, we began offering Zoom interactive classes. We learned how to best utilize this important means of communication to continue serving our fellow adult learners. "TJC at Home" became the brand for our virtual programs.

This semester we are conducting Zoom interactive classes. We are offering one-session evening classes, a two-session lunch and learn class, and a two-session Sunday afternoon class and a two-session evening class. We cap off the semester with an evening panel discussion.

Our offerings are diverse: from Kabbalah to the Prophets; and from contemporary Conservative Judaism in the United States to the study of medieval Rabbinic Period texts.

We pride ourselves in giving our fellow congregants opportunities to study with outstanding scholars from diverse academic institutions and leading members of the rabbinic community.

This semester, we are pleased to bring you presenters that come to us from American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Congregation Beth Chaim in West Windsor, Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City, SAR High School in Riverdale, Stanford University, Temple Israel Center in Westchester and The Jewish Center.

Our programs would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the members of the Adult Education Committee:

Lynn Coopersmith
Jon Katz, Co-chair
Jerry Kaufman
Frank Lees
Moshe Margolin, Co-chair
Warren Mitlak
Fredi Pearlmutter
Mik Rosenthal
Tirza Wahrman

We would like to thank Heidi Joseph, VP of Programming, and Sharon Diamondstein, Director of Congregational Learning, for all their help and support.

We hope you will join us as we learn together!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- For this semester, all programs are being offered free of charge to both members and non-members.
- For security reasons, Registration is required for all programs. To register, please send an email with your full name and the Course Codes(s) for the course(s) you would like to pre-register for to:

adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org

Here are the Course Codes:

NAME OF COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	COURSE CODE
IT'S A WHALE OF A STORY: THE BOOK OF JONAH	RABBI ELLIOT SCHOENBERG	JONAH
A TIME TO TEAR AND A TIME TO MEND	TAMMY JACOBOWITZ, PH.D.	TIME
A TASTE OF KABBALAH	DANIEL MATT, PH.D.	KABBALAH
TWO PROPHETS SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER	RABBI ERIC WISNIA	PROPHETS
CHRISTIAN FAITH & THE MAJOR ISSUES OF OUR TIME	REV. DR. DEBORAH BLANKS	AME
THE FUTURE OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT	RABBIS ARTSON, COSGROVE & TUCKER	PANEL

- For security reasons, Registration closes three hours before the class begins. Sorry, but there are no late registrations.
- The Zoom link for the course will be sent to you when you register. For security reasons, we request that you do not share the link.
- You will receive a reminder with the link the day of the class.



SPECIAL PRE-HIGH HOLIDAYS CLASS

IT'S A WHALE OF A STORY: THE BOOK OF JONAH

ZOOM INTERACTIVE LUNCH AND LEARN

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 2ND & 9TH FROM NOON TO 1:30 PM

RABBI ELLIOT SALO SCHOENBERG

Jews read this Biblical book on Yom Kippur. The Mishnah teaches “May God who answered Jonah from the midst of the whale, answer us and hear our voice today.”

What is the message of Jonah?

What is the significance of it emanating from a whale?

Why is it read on Yom Kippur?

And what is the message for this year of the Covid 19 pandemic?

Join us for this lunch and learn seminar where we will do a close reading of this holy text.



Rabbi Elliot Salo Schoenberg is the Interim Rabbi of The Jewish Center.

Please use course code **JONAH** when pre-registering.



SPECIAL PRE-HIGH HOLIDAYS ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS

A TIME TO TEAR AND A TIME TO MEND: REIMAGINING TESHUVA IN LIGHT OF RABBINIC NARRATIVES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

TAMMY JACOBOWITZ, PH.D.

Rosh Hashanah is upon us; the season for taking stock, investigating our priorities, values and actions.

But can people really change?

What might that look like?

In this class, we will take a deep dive into theories of change and personal transformation, as we study several stories from the Talmud.



Back by popular demand, **Tammy Jacobowitz, Ph.D.** teaches at SAR High School in Riverdale, NY.

Please use course code **TIME when pre-registering.**



A TASTE OF KABBALAH

ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS
SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 18TH & 25TH FROM 3:30 TO 5:00 PM

DANIEL MATT, PH.D.

In these two sessions we will explore some of the essential teachings of Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical tradition.

Among the themes to be covered are *Ein Sof* (God as Infinity), *Shekhinah* (the feminine aspect of God), the mystical meaning of Torah, finding God in the material world, and God's need for the human being.

The texts will be drawn from Daniel Matt's *The Essential Kabbalah* and his translation of the *Zohar*.



Daniel Matt, Ph.D. is a leading authority on Kabbalah, who has been featured in Time, Newsweek, and NPR. His books include *The Essential Kabbalah* and *God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality*. Over 18 years, he composed a 9-volume annotated translation of the Zohar—*The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*—which has been hailed as “a monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought.” He has taught at Stanford University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Currently he teaches Zohar online:

www.sup.org/zohar/course

Daniel's father, Rabbi Hershel Matt, served as rabbi at The Jewish Center from 1970-1975.

Please use course code **KABBALAH** when pre-registering.



TWO PROPHETS SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS
THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 12TH & 19TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

RABBI ERIC WISNIA

During this two-session class, we will see how Natan and Eliyahu speak truth to power.

Natan confronts King David: 2 Samuel: 11 – 12. We will learn how to confront a powerful king who does not take criticism well.

Eliyahu confronts King Ahab: I Kings 18 – 19. We will learn that magic and prayer are not enough. “Prayers don’t change things. Prayers change people, and people change things.”



Rabbi Eric B. Wisnia is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Chaim in West Windsor, NJ. He retired as Senior Rabbi in February 2019 after serving 42 years in that position.

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE

For security reasons, Registration is required for all programs. To register, please send an email with your full name and the Course Codes(s) for the course(s) you would like to register for to:

adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org

Please use course code **PROPHETS** when registering.



The Adult Education and Social Action Committees
Present

Part Two in the Series
"Understanding Other Faiths"

CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HOW IT APPLIES TO THE MAJOR ISSUES OF OUR TIME

TWO-SESSION ZOOM INTERACTIVE MINI-SERIES

MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 30TH & DECEMBER 7TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

REVEREND DR. DEBORAH K. BLANKS

The first session will focus on the history, beliefs, and practices of the A.M.E. Church.

In the second session, Reverend Blanks will share her thoughts on the interaction between faith, moral values, and some of the difficult challenges of today, including systemic racism and the violence and intolerance so evident in our society.



The Reverend Dr. Deborah K. Blanks is pastor of the historic Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest African American church in Princeton. Prior to serving as pastor of a local congregation, Rev. Dr. Blanks served with distinction as associate dean of religious life and the chapel at Princeton University for many years. Her introduction to the world of university chaplaincy began as an assistant university chaplain at Brown in the mid-1990's. Prior to entering the academy as a chaplain, she served as an active duty United States Navy chaplain stationed at commands in Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina. She was honorably discharged at the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserves.

Rev. Dr. Blanks earned a B.A. degree in political science from Douglass College, Rutgers University, a M. Div. degree from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, a Th. M. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Pastoral Counseling, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University with a concentration in Worship, Spirituality and Preaching.

Rev. Dr. Blanks is a recipient of military honors and civilian awards for outstanding

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE

For security reasons, Registration is required for all programs. To register, please send an email with your full name and the Course Codes(s) for the course(s) you would like to register for to:

adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org

Please use course code **AME** when registering.



THE FUTURE OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

ZOOM INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

RABBI BRADLEY ARTSON, PH.D.
RABBI ELLIOT COSGROVE, PH.D.
RABBI ANNIE TUCKER

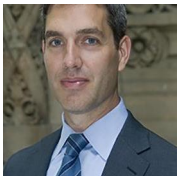
MODERATED BY RABBI ELLIOT SCHOENBERG

As we search for a permanent Rabbi, it is important that we understand the challenges both we as a congregation and the new Rabbi will be facing. The future of the Conservative Movement will serve as the context as we undertake to grow and thrive in the coming years.

We have invited three of the country's most prominent Rabbis to discuss what the future has in store for the Conservative Movement.



Rabbi Bradley Artson, Ph.D. holds the Abner and Roslyn Goldstine Dean's Chair of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and is Vice President of American Jewish University in Los Angeles.



Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, Ph.D. is head Rabbi of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. The synagogue is one of the prominent urban congregations in the United States.



Rabbi Annie Tucker is the head Rabbi of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY. It is a preeminent suburban congregation. Rabbi Tucker is a familiar face at TJC having previously served as Assistant Rabbi.

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE

For security reasons, Registration is required for all programs. To register, please send an email with your full name and the Course Codes(s) for the course(s) you would like to register for to:

adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org

Please use course code **PANEL** when registering.