

2024-2025 | 5785

Oestreich Adult Education Catalog



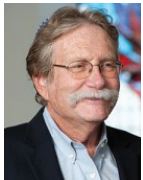
Bible BaBoker
Rabbi Annie Tucker
Shabbat mornings
8:30-9:15 am, in person

Join us every Shabbat morning before services to study Parashat HaShavua (the weekly Torah Portion). Through lively discussion of the Torah's wonderful—and sometimes challenging!—stories and themes, we will explore the commentary of thinkers both ancient and modern while adding our own voices to the conversation. Come every week or whenever you can make it! All are welcome regardless of background.



Lay-Led Talmud Class
Sundays
8:00 am, in person and via Zoom

Congregants study Talmud together. No prior background needed. All levels of experience and knowledge are welcome and invited to join in this dynamic and participatory class studying Talmud.



Online (formerly Midtown) Talmud Class
Rabbi Emeritus Gordon Tucker
Meets every other week, starting on 9/11 at 1:00 pm, see calendar for updates, via Zoom

In this class, we will continue the study of Tractate Gittin in the Babylonian Talmud, which is primarily concerned with the procedures for dissolving marriages. But Gittin also deals with issues surrounding the relationship of the center in the Land of Israel to the Jewish Diaspora, includes narratives about the last days of the Second Temple, and sets forth an array of practices and enactments that arose for the purpose of ordering society well and promoting peace. If you are interested in the class please contact Rabbi Gordon Tucker.



Parashat HaShavua
Rabbi Mitch Blank
Fridays from 8:15-9:15 am, via Zoom

The purpose of this class is to develop our own sense of the text through weekly study of the parashah right

before Shabbat. Each session is a stand-alone class. You can join at any time, and everyone is welcome at any or all of the sessions.

Sisterhood

Rosh Chodesh Group
Sisterhood

Monthly on Fridays, see calendar for dates.
11:00 am-12:00 pm, in person

Once a month, Sisterhood's Rosh Chodesh group will meet with a rotating discussion leader. This is an opportunity for a serious discussion of Torah, customs, Jewish history, and more, focusing on women's issues. All TIC members are welcome to attend.



Sunday Morning Beginner Yoga
Nancy Kardon, longtime meditator and certified Iyengar Yoga teacher
Sunday mornings: 9/8, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1 from 9:45-11:00 am, in person

Yoga practice that meets you where you are. Cultivate strength, flexibility, and nourishing peace of mind. Registration requested. Please see emails for more information and registration. Hosted in partnership with the National Alliance of Mental Illness of Westchester's Wellness Initiative. For questions, please contact NAMI Westchester at (914) 592-5458.



Preparing for the High Holidays: Mind, Heart, and Spirit

9/11 and 9/18 from 8:15-9:15 pm, 9/26 from 7:30-9:30 pm, in person

Begin preparing for the upcoming holiday season with classes offered by our clergy and rabbis from other area synagogues:

High Holiday Liturgy 101: Rabbi Annie Tucker (9/11)

The Practice of Teshuvah: Rabbi Josh Bender (9/18)

White Plains Wide Elul Night of Learning: (9/26, at TIC)



Please see our weekly email for Zoom and livestream links or for updates.



Seeking the Hiding God: A Book Talk with Dr. Arnie Eisen and Rabbi Annie Tucker

9/17, 7:00 pm, JCC Mid-Westchester

Drawing on a realization that shaped his faith during college ("God is here with us in the world, though not necessarily to be found by you or me or anyone else"), Dr. Eisen, former Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, explores issues of personal theology in his new book, *Seeking the Hiding God*. Join him in conversation with Rabbi Annie Tucker as they discuss such topics as prayer, spirituality, and the challenge of resolving one's faith with horrors such as the Holocaust.



October 7th Commemorations and Learning

As the one-year anniversary of October 7th approaches, we stand together to acknowledge tremendous loss, support the Israeli people, and reflect on how these terrible events have forever changed us and our world.

10/6 at 7:00 pm—**Westchester Wide Commemoration at TIC**, organized by WJC

10/17 (Sukkot Day 1) at 11:00 am—**Sermon given by Yaron and Jaqui Vital** whose daughter, Adi Vital-Kaploun, was murdered on Kibbutz Holit.

10/27 at 7:00 pm—**Reflections on October 7th panel and book-talk** featuring Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, Rabbi David Seth Kirshner, and Rabbi Annie Tucker, moderated by Rabbi Harry Pell.

Please see emails for additional programs.



Uf Gozal (Fly Away, Little Bird): A Discussion Group for New, Recent, and Soon-to-Be Empty Nesters Rabbi Annie Tucker

11/14, 1/16, 3/20 at 7:30-8:30 pm at Rabbi Tucker's house (Please call the TIC office

for the address)

Uf Gozal (based on Arik Einstein's song of the same name), is a discussion group designed for parents newly, or soon-to-be, empty nesters with all of its concomitant challenges and blessings. Data shows that in addition to the family, social, and other recalibrations of this phase of life, connection to one's Jewish community can often begin to shift as children leave home. Come share experiences, challenges, joys, and reflections on this significant life change with others who are going through it too. Class meets at Rabbi Annie Tucker's home—no pre-registration is required!



Racial Justice: Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

1/17/2025-1/20/2025

Stay tuned for more information about experiential learning for all members of the community.

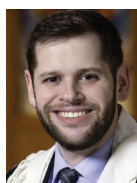


American Rabbinic Responses to Thanksgiving

Rabbi Josh Bender

Monday, 11/18 at 7:00 pm, in person

Examining rabbinic discourse on Thanksgiving, especially traditionalist prohibitions against Thanksgiving celebration by American Jews, within the broader context of the Talmud's "rabbinicization" of Roman holidays. We will examine these texts to take a broader look at how Jews relate to and identify as a part of or in opposition to larger non-Jewish society through our relationships with civil holidays and how the rabbis use concepts of time to demarcate Jewish and non-Jewish society.



Rabbinic Capital Punishment in Medieval Spain

Rabbi Josh Bender

Mondays, 12/2/24 and 12/9/24 at 7:00 pm, in person

The Torah and Talmud give detailed instructions for how and when a person should be executed for committing a crime, yet the only surviving independent historical record we have of this actually being implemented dates to Medieval Spain. The best example is that of Vidal DePorta, a wealthy sephardic courtier executed at the direction of Rabbi Shlomo ibn Aderet (the Rashba) for informing on his peers to the Gentile authorities. In this two part class we will examine the historical and legal developments that led to De Porta's execution.



Death and Dying in Jewish Tradition Rabbi Annie Tucker

1/22, 1/29, and 2/5 at 12:00 pm, via Zoom, and 8:15 pm, in person (the same content will be taught twice, once during the day and once at night, so please come whenever it is most convenient!)

Preparing for end of life, whether one's own or that of a loved one, is one of the most solemn and sacred tasks that most of us will ever undertake. In this class, we'll explore the rituals, beliefs, and practices that seek to provide guidance and comfort during life's final stages and immediately thereafter, including end of life decision making, mourning and burial customs, and theological perspectives on the afterlife. Through discussion, personal reflection, and the study of sacred text, we will explore how Jewish communities have honored the deceased and supported the bereaved throughout history and still do today.



Talmudic Conceptions of Animal Morality

Rabbi Josh Bender

Mondays, 6/9/25 and 6/16/25 at 8:00 pm, via Zoom

In this two part series we will examine Talmudic folklore and legal discourse to explore if the rabbis believed animals were capable of telling right from

wrong. We will look at stories about shomer shabbos cattle among others as well the discussion over whether or not preventing animal suffering is a biblical obligation. In doing so we will study and discuss the values judgments that inform Talmudic understandings of human-animal relationships.



Racial Justice: Film & Discussion

Sunday, 3/16/2025 time TBD

Join the Racial Justice committee for a film screening and discussion, exploring our role in working towards greater justice for all. Details to follow.



Adult Trip to Argentina 3/23-4/1

Experience the beauty, explore the history, and encounter the Jewish community of Argentina on our congregational trip to Buenos Aires, led by Rabbi Annie Tucker in conjunction with Keshet Educational Journeys. Featuring secular highlights such as Iguazu Falls, the Teatro Colon Opera House, and the National Museum of Fine Arts, our tour will also include significant time visiting the institutions and meeting the people that make up the fabric of Jewish life in Argentina (including the AMIA Community Center, site of the 1994 bombing), Seminario Rabinico Latinamericano (our Masorti rabbinical program in Latin America), and Holocaust Museum, along with local synagogues with whom we will spend Shabbat. Stay tuned for details on an upcoming pre-trip gathering and for pricing, flight, and other information.



Judaism and Agnostic Spirituality Rabbi Josh Bender

Mondays, 4/7/25, 4/21/25, and 4/28/25 at 7:00 pm, in person

This three part series will seek to address the place of belief in G-d in Jewish

spirituality and theology. We will use Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed as our jumping off point and compare his understanding of G-d and Creation to those of subsequent generations of secular and religious Jewish thinkers such as Baruch Spinoza, Ronald Dworkin and others. We will compare Rambam's theologically grounded belief that the universe was created and contrast this with modern scientific arguments by Stephen Hawking and others that creation has no definite beginning or end.



Racial Justice: Juneteenth Program

Thursday, 6/19/2025 time TBD

Join us to honor and celebrate Juneteenth in a meaningful way. Details to follow.



Support Group for Parents Raising Children with Special Needs 0-17

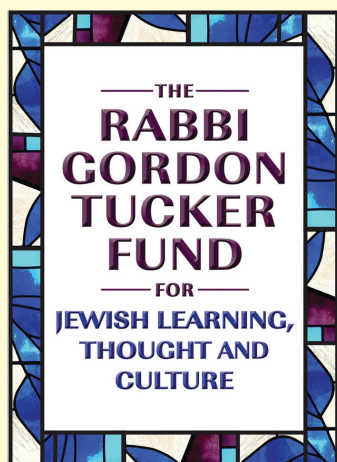
This group provides a chance for parents to connect with other parents, learn from each other, and share experiences. Topics of discussion will be decided based on the interests of the group (some of the topics discussed this past year were CSE meetings, vacations, siblings, and general family dynamics). Attendance and conversations are confidential.



Support Group for Parents of Adult Children with Mental Health Challenges

Enables people to connect, share experiences, and network with one another. Topics will be decided based on the interest of the group. Attendance and conversations are confidential.

For more information on Support groups please contact Michelle Steinhart at 914-948-2800 x145 or m.steinhart@templeisraelcenter.org.



The Rabbi Gordon Tucker Fund for Jewish Learning, Thought, and Culture

**"Israel and the Jewish Future":
A Rabbi Gordon Tucker Fund Shabbaton
with Rabbi Donniel Hartman
Shabbat, 12/6-12/7, times to follow**

The events since October 7th have upended both Israel and the Diaspora, raising sobering questions about antisemitism, peoplehood, security, morality, and so much more. Come hear Rabbi Donniel Hartman, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute and one of the leading intellectuals of our day, explore these issues as he reflects on how our world has so recently changed and what it means for the Jewish future.



TIC Talks

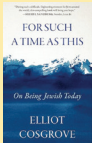
Join as we hear from authors and discuss newly published contemporary Jewish books. *Sponsored in part by The Jewish Book Council.*



***Swimming to Jerusalem: A Novel* by Seth Bornstein** **Thursday, 9/12 at 7:00 pm, in person**

Swimming to Jerusalem is the story of Bram Goodman; his family, friends, colleagues, and horrors from the Lebanon War. When Theo, his youngest child, seeks to learn about Judaism, Bram begins to confront the past that he has attempted to keep at bay.

Panel Discussion: Reflections On October 7, One Year Later with Rabbis Annie Tucker, Elliot Cosgrove, David Kirshner, and Harry Pell **Sunday, 10/27 at 7:00 pm, in person**



***For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today* by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove**

The attack on Israel on October 7th has drawn a clear and irreversible demarcation in time for American Jews. Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, one of today's most influential thought leaders and spiritual guides, helps readers make sense of these fraught times, with warmth and wisdom.



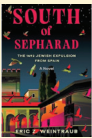
***Streams of Shattered Consciousness: A Chronicle of the First 50 Days of the Israel—Hamas War* by Rabbi David Seth Kirshner**

Streams of Shattered Consciousness is a daily chronicle of Rabbi Kirshner's channeled emotions and opinions with a healthy dose of history lessons. His personal reflections are a record of what is a watershed moment in the history of the Jewish people.



***Displaced Persons* by Joan Leegant** **Wednesday, 11/6 at 6:30 pm, in person**

Set in Israel and in the United States, the stories in this prize-winning collection explore the experience of exile, belonging, and what it means to call a place home.



***South of Sepharad: The 1492 Jewish Expulsion from Spain* by Eric Weintraub** **Wednesday, 12/11 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

Fleeing death by the Spanish Inquisition, a Jewish doctor makes an impossible choice between home and faith, then struggles to lead his family on a journey for a new life in Morocco.



***Love Letter from Pig: My Brother's Story of Freedom Summer* by Julie Kabat** **1/15 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

In the summer of 1964, Julie Kabat's brother Luke volunteered to teach biology for the Mississippi Summer Project. Kabat delves into her family history to understand Luke's motivations for joining the movement and documents his experiences as a voting rights activist in the South during this volatile period.



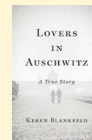
***Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice* by Judge David Tate** **2/12 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

David Tate has served nearly 30 years on America's second highest U.S. court. He has championed equal justice, decided landmark environmental and voting cases, and embodied the ideal of what a great judge should be. He has been blind for the past 50 of his 80-plus years.



***The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern: A Novel* by Lynda Loigman** **3/19 at 7:00 pm, in person**

On the cusp of turning eighty, Augusta Stern is adrift. When she relocates to southern Florida she unexpectedly crosses paths with Irving Rivkin, the man who broke her heart sixty years earlier.



***Lovers in Auschwitz: a True Story* by Keren Blankfeld** **4/2 at 7:00 pm, in person**

The mesmerizing and inspirational true story of two Holocaust survivors who fell in love in Auschwitz, only to be separated upon liberation and lead remarkable lives apart following the war, and then find each other again more than 70 years later.



***The Lost Gift to the Italian Island* by Barbara Josselson** **5/14 at 7:00 pm, in person**

When Tori Coleman discovers that her mother was adopted, her whole world shatters. Her boyfriend wants to get married, but how can she commit when she doesn't know who she is? The only clue to her identity is a mysterious postcard with a photograph of an ornate wedding dress her grandmother made sending her on a journey of discovery.



Eat Pray Learn Shabbat Dinners & Book Talks

Join us for Friday night Shabbat dinner followed by a book talk by local authors who will share their recent publications. *Sponsored in part by The Jewish Book Council.*



***Food, Hope & Resilience: Authentic Recipes and Remarkable Stories from Holocaust Survivors* by June Hersh** **Friday, 12/13, in person**

This vital collection of survivor stories uplifts and inspires alongside recipes that nourish your soul. Read about daring partisans who fought in the woods, hidden children who sought comfort from strangers and those who endured unimaginable internment. For Holocaust survivors, food was a way to connect their lives before the war with the homes they created after.



***10/7 100 Human Stories* by Lee Yaron** **Friday, 1/10, in person**

A radically passionate work of investigative

journalism and political critique by acclaimed Haaretz reporter Lee Yaron, 10/7 chronicles the massacre that ignited a war through the stories of more than 100 civilians



***Postwar Stories; How Books made Judaism American* by Rachel Gordan** **Friday, 2/7, in person**

Postwar Stories examines how Jewish middlebrow literature helped to shape post-Holocaust American Jewish identity. For both Jews and non-Jews accustomed to antisemitic tropes and images, positive depictions of Jews had a normalizing effect, reminding the public that Jews were just like other Americans, after all.

All books are available for purchase at Bronx River Books <https://www.bronxriverbooks.com/template-israel-center-2024-2025-book-series>

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