

TEMPLE REYIM
RABBI PHILIP KIEVAL 55th ANNUAL KALLAH

TRUTH AND FALSEHOODS IN THE BIBLE — AND BEYOND



Dr. Jonathan Klawans
Scholar-in-Residence

A TIME FOR PRAYER, STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP
MAY 2 – 4, 2025 • 4 - 6 IYYAR 5785



OUR SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Dr. Jonathan Klawans is Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies at Boston University. He is a specialist in the religion and religious literature of ancient Judaism. He teaches courses in Western Religion, the Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic Literature, and Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion.

A graduate of Columbia University, Dr. Klawans has taught at Harvard University and Hebrew College and has been involved in adult education for many years. Dr. Klawans is the author of four books, dozens of academic articles, and recently co-edited the Jewish Annotated Apocrypha. His first book, *Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism* (2000), received awards as a best first book for that year from the American Academy of Religion and the American Academy for Jewish Research. Dr. Klawans is currently working on a book on biblical forgeries.

FROM OUR RABBI

Welcome to Temple Reyim's 55th Rabbi Philip Kieval Kallah!

We are thrilled to welcome Professor Jonathan Klawans to Reyim. Professor Klawans is a renowned scholar, teacher and author. His scholarship on religion and religious literature of ancient Judaism has been revolutionary, changing our understanding of the practice of sacrifice and the meaning of the Biblical concepts of purity and impurity.

Our weekend will be filled with teaching and reflection on the concepts of truth and falsehood, spanning from Biblical and apocryphal stories of our ancient ancestors to the counterfeiting of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Professor Klawans' scholarship is relevant and piercing at so many different levels, and raises fascinating questions. What do we mean by truth? How do we know what is true and what is falsehood? Who gets to make that claim - and what happens if others disagree? What an amazing theme to be exploring in our current moral and political landscape, when truth-telling and claims on truth narratives are constantly being challenged and tested. What is holding us together?!

This weekend is an opportunity to test our own assumptions about truth, falsehoods and deceptions. It is also to listen and learn, question and clarify, wonder and strengthen our understanding of the many ideas and texts at the heart of our religious tradition.

I am so grateful to all of our Kallah organizers, donors and sponsors who have made this weekend possible. Their time, energy and resources have brought us together. May we continue *la'asok b'divrei Torah* - engage deeply in the words of Torah - and may our learning be a blessing that continues to inspire us and give us strength.

Bivracha,

Rabbi Daniel Berman



FROM THE KALLAH COMMITTEE

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to a weekend of learning and reflection as we explore the theme “Lies and Truths in the Bible and Beyond” with our distinguished guest Jonathan Klawans of Boston University.

In an era when misinformation, spin and propaganda shape public discourse, our tradition’s deep engagement with questions of truth and deception has never been more relevant. The Bible itself grapples with these themes—whether, for example, in the stories of Abraham calling Sarah his sister or in Jacob’s disguises. Professor Klawans, an expert in biblical and ancient Jewish texts, will guide us in examining how truth and falsehood were understood in biblical times and how those insights can illuminate contemporary ethical challenges.

As we navigate a world where fact and fiction often blur, we must ask: How do we discern truth? What responsibilities do we bear in a world of misinformation? And how do ancient texts, including pseudepigrapha—works written in the names of biblical figures—challenge our assumptions about authorship, authenticity, and authority?

This weekend promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking opportunity to connect our sacred texts with the ethical dilemmas of today. We look forward to learning together and to the discussions that will surely enrich our understandings of past and present.

We are grateful for your participation and look forward to seeing you there.

L’Shalom,
Joan Listernick

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

Do you have ideas for future topics or speakers? Have you any ideas about different program formats? We’d love to hear from you. We would also be happy for you to join our committee. It takes work, but the results are rewarding. If you are interested, feel free to send us an email (listerjb@icloud.com).

THE KALLAH COMMITTEE

Joan Listernick, Ph.D. Chair

Harvey Berman
Sara Berman
Lesley Daniel
Michele Koppelman, ex Officio

Rob Daniel
Peter Machinist
Carol Stollar

David Stollar, M.D.
Bryon Rakoff
Ben Yudkoff



TRUTH AND FALSEHOODS IN THE BIBLE – AND BEYOND

Is lying or deception ever justifiable? Some believe that lying, in some cases, can advance a “higher truth.” What if the deception is used to protect against someone who has an evil intent? Why are so many of us easily taken in by fraud? During this Kallah, our scholar-in-residence will explore these questions truth and falsehoods as they relate to the Bible.

Friday, May 2nd: Lies our Ancestors Told: Some Truth about Lies in the Hebrew Bible

7:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Lecture 1

9:00 PM Oneg Shabbat with Question-and-Answer Session

We will discuss several biblical stories that pivot on deception, including stories concerning Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, Moses, and Esther. What exactly is a lie? And when might lies, however we define them, be justified?

Saturday, May 3rd: Truth and Lies in Apocryphal Tales

9:00 Shabbat Service and Lecture 2 with Question-and-Answer Session

11:00 Children’s Service

12:30 Shabbat Luncheon (**Reservations Required**)

Looking beyond the Hebrew Bible, we will look at two contrasting Second Temple period tales of heroism. Judith (in the book that bears her name) saves her people by guile. In 2 Maccabees, the elderly Eleazar prefers to die for the truth. Ironically, both stories are now in the collection known as “The Apocrypha.” What truths do these “apocryphal” tales tell?

Sunday, May 4th: Biblical Forgery Today

10:00 AM Continental Breakfast

10:30 Lecture 3

Concluding Remarks: Rabbi Berman

Not so long ago, the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC admitted that the 16 Dead Sea Scroll fragments they purchased from antiquities dealers were fakes. But scholars had authenticated them before purchase. We will review this and other tales of biblical forgery and wonder how it is that scholars and curators get taken in by fraud, again and again.



AN INVITATION FOR SPONSORSHIP

For over 50 years, the Temple Reyim Kallah has brought us speakers who have inspired and challenged us. We invite you to help us continue the Kallah tradition by donating as a Patron, Donor, or Sponsor*. A donation to our Kallah provides Temple Reyim with the resources to support this and other cultural and educational activities. ***A contribution in any amount is welcome.***

Patron Level:	\$ 360
Donor Level:	\$ 250
Sponsor Level:	\$ 136
Contributor Level:	\$ 36

DONATIONS MAY BE REMITTED TO:

Temple Reyim
1860 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02466

Thanks for helping support our Kallah!

** Any sponsorships received after April 25th will not be included in printed materials.*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SHABBAT)

We will be having our engaging Children's Shabbat service during our Kallah weekend. Services will start at 11:00 am.



THE TEMPLE REYIM KALLAH

In 1968 Saul and Harriet Goldweitz approached Rabbi Philip Kieval with a request for an annual program in memory of Saul's mother, Gussie Goldweitz. Rabbi Kieval suggested the Kallah weekend as a vehicle for this memorial; a program at which Temple members and their guests share in Shabbat services, lectures, and discussions, and the "breaking of bread" with fellow congregants. In 1988, just prior to Rabbi Kieval taking emeritus status, we proudly named the series in his honor.

KALLAH SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE 1969-2025

Since 1969, our Kallah has hosted an amazing variety of scholars from the United States and Israel. Some were already well known; others became internationally renowned in the fullness of time. We are proud to add Jonathan Klawans to this distinguished list.

Year	Speaker	Year	Speaker	Year	Speaker
1969	Robert Chazan	1988	Leonid Feldman	2009	James Loeffler
1970	Gerson Cohen	1989	Morton Leifman	2010	Barbara Geller
1971	Trude Weiss-Rosmarin	1990	Isaiah Gafni	2011	Jane Kanarek
1972	Yochanan Muffs	1991	Hillel Levine	2012	Peter Cole/Adina Hoffman
1973	Avraham Holtz	1992	Benjamin Gampel	2013	<i>Deferred</i>
1974	Gershon Winer	1993	Nehama Aschkenasy	2014	Rabbi Art Green
1975	Jakob Petuchowski	1994	Joel Roth	2015	Ruth Messinger
1976	Ismar Schorsch	1995	Jack Wertheimer	2016	Michael A. Grodin MD
1977	Charles Liebman	1998	Ora Horn Prouser	2017	Stephen J. Whitfield
1978	Fritz Rothschild	1999	Yosef Abramowitz	2018	William (Bill) Miles
1979	Seymour Siegel	2000	Everett Fox	2019	Susannah Heschel
1980	David Sidorksy	2001	Diane Sharon	2020	<i>Deferred - COVID</i>
1981	Emanuel Goldsmith	2002	Jay Harris	2021	Gary Rendsburg
1982	Steven Katz	2003	Barry Holtz	2022	Rachel Adelman
1983	Ronald Brauner	2004	Jonathan Sarna	2023	Shaul Magid
1984	Jules Harlow	2005	Or Rose	2024	Derek Penslar
1985	Burton Visotzky	2006	Ruth Langer	2025	Jonathan Klawans
1986	Howard Sachar	2007	Jacob Meskin		
1987	Reuven Kimelman	2008	William G. Dever		