



HIGHLAND PARK
CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE
Congregation Anshe Emeth

2009-2010

Program Guide

Lectures and Classes,
Jewish Film Series

Adult Education, Arts, and Events

Our synagogue has a rich assortment of adult education and cultural events:

- The American Jerusalem Academy for Contemporary Judaic Studies (AJA), our annual series of talks and events
- The Congregation Anshe Emeth Legacy Endowment Series and Spring Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat
- Our Jewish film series, now in its eighth year
- Various classes on Jewish topics

These events are all made possible by donations from our generous sponsors. We urge you to become one of them.

The American Jerusalem Academy appreciates and thanks its generous sponsors

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***Grit*: A Pediatrician's Odyssey From A Russian Labor Camp to Harvard**

Dr. Michael Kesler

Saturday, October 31, 2009, seudah shlishit after mincha at 5 P.M.

Join us for very special *seudah shlishit* (third Shabbat meal) when our own Dr. Michael Kesler will talk about the recently published book *Grit*, a memoir by his late wife Regina, that he edited. The book recounts the actual experiences of a young woman escaping her hometown in Poland during the Nazi invasion, working as a slave laborer in Russia, and finally reaching the United States. She fought against overwhelming odds to achieve her dream, to pursue a medical education at Harvard and become a physician.

Michael Kesler, a Holocaust survivor, received his education as a chemical engineer at MIT and NYU. He and his wife, Barbara Reed, a journalism professor at Rutgers, are members of our Temple.

No charge for admission

Loretta Flam Memorial Lecture

The Spiritual Struggles of Daily Life

Rabbi Shai Held

Sunday, November 1, 2009, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., lunch included

- **When Visionaries Respect Managers, the Messiah Will Come.** A study of Rav Kook's (the great mystic and first Chief Rabbi of Israel's) view of the relationship between prophets-visionaries, on the one hand, and sages-managers, on the other; a view both of how prophecy and Jewish law integrate in Judaism and of how vision and detail relate in everyday life
- **Curtailing Our Own Power: A View from Sarah and Hagar.** A close reading of the battles between Sarah and Hagar, with special attention to the notion that Sarah sinned by not restraining her power over another; how this connects to our relationship to the patriarchs/matriarchs; and how it connects to our own relationship to power in family and the workplace

Rabbi Shai Held serves as Scholar-in-Residence at *Kehilat Hadar*, teaches at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is a Jacob Javits Fellow in Religion at Harvard University. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Rabbi Held was Director of Education and Conservative Rabbinic Advisor at Harvard Hillel.

No charge for admission



Louis Rockoff Lecture

Rabbi Yakov Hilsenrath

Monday, November 9, 2009, 8:00 P.M.

Topic to be announced. Rabbi Hilsenrath is Rabbi Emeritus of Highland Park Conservative Temple – Congregation Anshe Emeth.

No charge for admission

Third Annual Dr. Julius and Ethel Mintz Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat

Rabbi Daniel C. Goldfarb

Friday, November 20 - Saturday, November 21, 2009

Join us on Friday evening and Saturday as Rabbi Goldfarb explores the following topics:

- **E-goniffs, E-girls and E-gossip: The Internet and Judaism.** The Internet has revolutionized information and communication in no less significant ways than did Johannes Gutenberg and Alexander Graham Bell. But the *www* presents as many dilemmas as it does opportunities, regarding persons, property, relationships, and values. What does Judaism have to say about downloading the latest music, gossiping on Facebook, or peeping at Paris Hilton? Text-based, no background required.
- **Adon Olam - A Little Night Music.** *Adon Olam* has been called “the most popular hymn added to the liturgy since the Bible.” There’s hardly a tune that’s not been used for it. You’ve sung it hundreds (thousands?) of times, but have you ever really studied what it says? A fascinating text, when written a millennium ago, and now, about how we and God relate to one another.
- **The Length of Our Days.** The *Talmud* tells us that “until Abraham there was no old age; until Jacob there was no illness.” Times certainly have changed. Seniors today constitute the fastest growing sector of the population, both general and Jewish. What can we learn from classic Jewish texts about how to relate to aging and the aged? We’ll look at some of the opportunities and challenges involved. Worthwhile for people of all ages, of course.
- **Self-Defense and Jewish Law.** One-and-a-half verses in Exodus give us a wonderful view of the methodology of the Rabbis and the medieval commentators in the study of *Torah* text. They also provide the basis for several of the most important laws in Judaism as well as an industry of thriller books and movies.

Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, Director of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, is a graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Law School and received his MHL and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He worked for 25 years as an attorney for Israel’s Ministries of Justice and Finance and in private practice in Jerusalem before joining the Yeshiva in July 2000.

Times and fee for Friday night dinner to be announced

The Ellen M. Egger Memorial Lecture

From the Mind and Heart of Rabbi Kerry Olitzky: Lecture and Book Signing

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky

Monday, November 30, 2009, 8:00 P.M.

An evening devoted to the writings of this author of over 70 books and hundreds of articles. Rabbi Olitzky's writings include a vast array of subjects in which he brings Jewish wisdom into everyday life. He is a pioneer in many contemporary areas, including Jewish 12 Step Spirituality (*Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery*), Jewish Gerontology (*The Safe Deposit and Other Stories about Grandparents, Old Lovers, and Crazy Old Men*), Men's Spirituality (*From Your Father's House . . . Reflections for Modern Jewish Men*), Healing (*Jewish Paths toward Healing and Wholeness: A Personal Guide to Dealing with Suffering*), Reclaiming Jewish Ritual (*The Rituals and Practices of a Jewish Life: A Handbook for Personal Spiritual Renewal*), as well as efforts to shape an inclusive Jewish community (*Introducing My Faith and Community: The Jewish Outreach Institute Guide for the Christian in a Jewish Interfaith Relationship*). Rabbi Olitzky will weave a tapestry of meaning through all of his works, sharing his theology and insights along the way.

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, a member of HPCT-CAE, is the Executive Director of the Jewish Outreach Institute.

No charge for admission



Adult *Chanukah* Program: More *Chanukah* for Adults

Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein

Monday, December 7, 2009, 8:00 P.M.

We will explore intriguing, enlightening and controversial aspects of this major minor holiday.

Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, LMSW, is the Spiritual Care Coordinator of the Shira Ruskay Center of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in New York City. She previously served the Jewish community as a congregational rabbi, chaplain, and as an assistant dean of the JTS Rabbinical School, and also as a Jewish educator and Hillel program director.

\$5 members, \$7 non-members

A Master Class with Reuben Silver, Z"l, on *Parashat Shemot*

Professor Maurice Elias, Moderator

Sunday, January 10, 2010, 9:30 to 11:00 A.M.

Reuben Silver, former Executive Director of the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center, was an outstanding, entertaining, and provocative teacher. For many years he taught classes and had a particularly large and loyal following for his Sunday morning classes.

Recently his wife Leah uncovered some taped lectures given by Reuben over two decades ago. You are invited to hear his thoughts about the Book of *Shemot*, Parashat Shemot.

The format of the class will be to play Reuben's tape, stopping at various discussion points that he provided, to share our own reflections on the Parasha and whatever we can recall about Reuben's teachings on the topic.

Maurice J. Elias is a Professor in the Psychology Department of Rutgers University. He is Director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab and the Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) prevention initiative, as well as the author of *Emotionally Intelligent Parenting*.

No charge for admission



Co-sponsored with Temple Sisterhood

Conversion Through the Ages

Nina Redl

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

The *Mishnah* describes a convert as someone "who has risen from the grave." This powerful image leaves us to ask – what about the convert's former life? Can someone really be a radically new person through a change of religion? Let's examine the images of converts in Second Temple and rabbinic literature and see what they convey about the attitudes of and toward converts. How do we feel about these images today, and what has changed for converts of our time?

Ms. Redl holds degrees from Munich University and is currently a rabbinical student and a PhD candidate at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is working on a thesis that will combine Talmudic reasoning with Jewish Ethics. She teaches at JTS, Rutgers University, and Munich University.

No charge for admission

Third Annual Congregation Anshe Emeth Legacy Endowment Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat

Professor David Kraemer

Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20, 2010

Join us on Friday night and Saturday as Professor Kraemer explores the following topics:

- **Judaism and Christianity: What are the Real Differences?** Modern Jews often are taught that Christianity is what Judaism is not. However, well beyond their origins, the two faiths share far more than they do not. Without caricature and without stereotype, how can we thoughtfully distinguish these two world-shaping faiths?
- **Judaism and Islam: The Shared Tradition.** Contemporary Jews think of Muslims as “the other.” Yet, arguably, it is far more correct to speak of a “Judeo-Muslim” tradition than of a “Judeo-Christian” one. In what ways are all “good” Muslims Jews and all “good” Jews Muslims? Asking this question, we hopefully will gain a far more sympathetic understanding of the other.
- **Contemporary Jewish Ethics: A Loving Critique.** Much has been written on modern Jewish ethics. Nevertheless, the ethics of modern Jews too often have failed. What causes this disconnect? Why is it that Jews, who are steeped in a noble legal tradition (*halacha*), sometimes have a hard time translating “the *halachic*” into “the good”? We will explore these questions, seeking a model for a modern ethical standard that is at the same time Jewish.
- **Jewish Eating: A Conversation for the Third Meal.** As we sit down to eat our third Sabbath meal, we will consider how and why eating has been so central through the ages to Jewish practice. What does it mean to “eat Jewish”? With selected rabbinic texts, we will study why eating is a central expression of Jewish identity.

David Kraemer is the Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at The Jewish Theological Seminary. In his scholarship Dr. Kraemer is particularly interested in literary analysis of rabbinic literature, rabbinic ritual, and the social and religious history of Jews in late antiquity. He is the author of several books, including *Jewish Eating and Identity through the Ages*, a book on the evolution of Jewish eating practices.

Times and fee for Friday night dinner to be announced

Pre-Passover Workshop: Beyond the *Seder*

Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein

Monday, March 15, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

Our preparation for Passover is usually so focused on the *Seder* that we forget that the holiday goes on for another week. We will examine the many other significant and obscure aspects of the holiday of *matzah*, freedom, and spring.

No charge for admission



Jenny and Joseph Lieberman Lectures

Rabbi Yakov R. Hilsenrath

Monday, May 10, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

Monday, May 24, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

Topics to be announced. Rabbi Hilsenrath is Rabbi Emeritus of Highland Park Conservative Temple – Congregation Anshe Emeth.

No charge for admission

Shabbat Afternoon Torah Study

Saturdays, 75 minutes prior to Mincha services

Barry Mael

Get into the spirit of *Shabbat* with lively group discussions of *Chumash* and *Rashi*. The current cycle continues through October 31, 2009 and restarts on February 6, 2010.

Barry Mael has worked in the Jewish not-for-profit world since 1982. He is currently the Chief Service Delivery Officer at United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ).

No charge for admission



Congregation Anshe Emeth Legacy Endowment - Hebrew Language Institute

Ilana Rozett, Director

Beginners' Hebrew

Tuesday evenings, October 20, 2009 – April 27, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

Course for beginners to cover reading, writing, and conversational Hebrew taught in *ulpan* style – teaching Hebrew in Hebrew. Students of all backgrounds are welcome to this relaxed and enjoyable class.

\$58

Intermediate Hebrew

Thursday evenings, October 22, 2009 – April 29, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

For those who have completed an introductory class in Hebrew or have prior knowledge of basic Hebrew. The goal of this class will be to help the student achieve the following language skills: reading, comprehension, conversational facility, and writing ability.

\$58

Ilana Rozett, an HPCT-CAE member, hails from Israel. She is a certified Hebrew and Jewish Studies teachers who taught at Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley for 23 years and is an experienced *ulpan* teacher.

SUNDAYS WITH MORDY

Co-sponsored with the Temple Men's Club

The Golem and Singularity (aka "Rabbis and Robots")

Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz

Sunday, October 25, 2009, 9 A.M.

Too much technology got you down? Just wait for the robot uprising! The Technological Singularity is the theoretical future point at which computers and robots might be able to acquire autonomy. We Jews have had experience before with rebellious artificial servants. In Jewish folklore, a golem is an animated being created entirely from inanimate matter. Come hear about it and learn a bit about the spiritual dimension of technology.

Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz is Director of Admissions of the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), holds an MA from JTS, and is currently a PhD candidate and an instructor on the JTS Talmud faculty.

\$6 Members, \$8 non-members, breakfast included

Do-It-Yourself Torah: Shabbat

Rabbi Mordechai Schwartz

Sundays, February 7, March 7, and March 14, 2010, 9 A.M.

In this class we'll get under the hood, and see the inner workings of *Shabbat* – its origins, system of proscribed labor, and positive *mitzvot*. This will empower you to make your own *Shabbat* choices!

\$6/day Members, \$8/day non-members, breakfast included



Genesis From Cover to Cover

Rabbi Eliot Malomet

Mondays, starting October 26, 2009, 12:15 – 1:15 P.M.

Our lively Monday lunch class continues this year with an in depth look at the Book of *Bereishit*, Genesis. Each week we will examine a different piece of text from the first book of the *Torah* looking for its literary, theological, spiritual, and historical messages, and its relevance to us today. Join us for a light lunch followed by an encounter with the text.

No fee for members, \$10 per semester for non-members. Optional lunch: \$3

Classic Texts That Open Your Heart

Rabbi Eliot Malomet

Monday, October 26; Monday, November 2; Tuesday, November 10, Monday, November 16; Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 8:00 P.M.

The practice of Judaism is based on the proposition that the study of a text has the power to change your life. In this series we will be looking at specific texts that combine emotional and intellectual power—texts that, because of their poetry and their gravity, have the power to open our hearts and take up residence there.

No fee for members, \$10 per semester for non-members



Sponsored by Temple Sisterhood

Torah on Tuesday

Rabbi Eliot Malomet

Tuesdays, starting September 8, 2009, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

How should one live? What ought to govern our inner lives as we engage the world? How do we, as Jews, make decisions about the most important things in our lives? What kind of characteristics should we emulate and develop? What is an ideal Jew? We explore these questions every Tuesday, using Joseph Telushkin's *Code of Jewish Ethics* as our guide. This year we will embark on the second volume of his series: *Love Your Neighbor*.

No fee for members, \$10 per semester for non-members



Jewish Holidays 101

Rae Ehrlich

January 4, 11, 18 and 25, February 1 and 22, 2010, 8:00 P.M.

A hands-on guide to everything you always wanted to know about the origins and observance of our major and minor Holidays, by our own Rae Ehrlich, formerly the librarian of Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley. She has taught the popular Basic Judaism class for us in the past. Reading material will be provided.

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

2009-2010

Saturday, October 24, 8:00 P.M.
Double feature!

Like a Fish Out of Water

Israel, 2006, 52 minutes, color
Director: Leonid Prudovsky
Hebrew with English subtitles

In this Israeli romantic comedy, a non-religious new immigrant from Argentina desperately needs to improve his Hebrew accent so that he can audition for a soap opera. His religious teacher at the absorption center is his best hope, but she hates soap operas and is not so fond of her pupil either. In fact, she has her own problems, including an energetic mother who thinks her daughter clearly has passed the proper wedding age.

NR, suitable for teens



Cantor on Trial

USA, 1931, 10 Minutes, B&W
Director: Sidney M. Goldin
Yiddish with English subtitles

Unable to agree on an Old-World Eastern European or a German candidate for cantor, the synagogue committee is visited by a third candidate: a modern American *chazan* with "pep and jazz" who can do Kol Nidre with a "two-step." This 1931 short gem features Louis "Leibele" Waldman playing all three candidates. This film has been restored by The National Center for Jewish Film.



The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University

Remarks by Kenneth Mandel, executive producer of such films as *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (1997), *Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans* (2001), and *The Trial of Saddam Hussein* (2008).

Saturday, December 5, 8:00 P.M.

The Ritchie Boys

Canada/Germany, 90 minutes, color

Director: Christian Bauer

English and German with English subtitles



They were the world's most unlikely soldiers.

As teenagers, they had escaped the Nazis.

They trained in intelligence work and psychological warfare, returning to Europe as

US soldiers with the greatest motivation to fight: they were Jewish. Nobody knew the enemy, his culture, and his language better than they. Their mission: ascertain and break the enemy's morale. A fascinating and surprisingly entertaining documentary because the film's surviving subjects prove to be some of the most articulate, not to mention wittiest, octogenarians around.

NR, Suitable for teens

Remarks by Victor Brombert, Professor Emeritus, Princeton University. Trained in Camp Ritchie as an interrogator, Victor Brombert landed in Normandy two days after D-Day. After fighting in France and witnessing the liberation of Paris, he was sent to the Huertgen Forest, one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of World War II. Following Germany's capitulation he worked as an interpreter and interrogator in the process of de-Nazification.

2009-2010

Saturday, January 16, 8:00 P.M.

Altalena

Israel, 1994, 53 minutes, color/B&W

Director: Ilana Tsur

English and Hebrew with English subtitles

On June 20, 1948, the ship *Altalena* arrived in Israel carrying 930 World War II refugees. Also on board was ammunition amassed by the Irgun in direct violation of Ben Gurion's new military chain-of-command. Nearly igniting a civil war in the newly established Jewish state, Ben Gurion gave the order to fire on the ship. "The mind-boggling fact," writes the *Jewish Forward*, "of Jew firing on Jew and the power play between Begin and Ben-Gurion make this extraordinary documentary a must-see!"



The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University

NR, Suitable for teens

Remarks by Samuel (Muli) Peleg, Professor of Political Science and Communication at Netanya College and a research fellow at the Stanford Center for International Conflict Resolution and Negotiation. Dr. Peleg has been a top advisor on leadership and negotiations for the Peres Center for Peace and is currently the Israeli Co-Chairman of One Voice, an organization that promotes dialogue and reconciliation among various factions of Israeli society.

Saturday, January 30, 8:00 P.M.

My Father My Lord (*Hofshat Kaitz*)

Israel, 2007, 72 minutes, Color

Director: David Volach

Hebrew with English subtitles



A respected Orthodox rabbi dotes on his only son, but his religious strictures leave an emotional gap between the impish child and the stern father. When the father's all-consuming obsession with observing ritual inadvertently leads to tragedy, his previously subservient wife rages against both her husband and God. A dramatic retelling of the story of Abraham and Isaac – from an Israeli who grew up in a *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) community in Jerusalem.

NR, suitable for teens

Remarks by Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin, Principal of the North Shore Hebrew Academy Middle School in Great Neck, New York. In addition to publishing and lecturing on Jewish education and literature, Rabbi Kobrin has written about relationships between parents and children.

2009-2010

Saturday, February 13, 8:00 P.M.

Dear Mr. Waldman *(Michtavim le America)*

Israel, 2006, 86 minutes, color
Director: Hanan Peled
Hebrew with English subtitles

In Tel Aviv in the early 1960s, ten-year-old Hilik just wants to make his parents happy to compensate for the grief and loss they suffered in the Holocaust. But the family's fragile balance is breached when Hilik's father chooses to believe that a lost son from his first marriage did not really die in Auschwitz, but somehow escaped to the United States to become President Kennedy's assistant. When the father writes a letter to Mr. Waldman, Hilik takes matters into his own hands. This coming-of-age story, written and directed by the son of survivors, beautifully captures the milieu of mid-century Israel and the peculiarities of growing up amid the emotional wreckage of the Holocaust.

NR, suitable for teens

Remarks by Ariella Lang, a visiting scholar in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. Her areas of expertise include Jewish-Christian relations, the Holocaust, and Jewish film.

Saturday, March 13, 8:00 P.M.

A Green Chariot

Israel, 2005, 48 minutes, color
Director: Gilad Goldschmidt
Hebrew with English subtitles,

Twenty-two-year-old Sasha has immersed himself in a religious community in Israel. He has changed his name to Yair, speaks only Hebrew, and has all but forgotten his Russian roots. But when he receives a box filled with his late mother's belongings, his religious identity is shattered.

NR, Suitable for teens

Remarks by Rabbi Esther Reed. Rabbi Reed is the Associate Director for Jewish Campus Life at Rutgers University Hillel. She currently serves on the Middlesex County Human Relations Commission and the Executive Council of the New Jersey Rabbinical Assembly.



The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University



16 Admission to all films is free, with a \$6 donation suggested.

See them as a Sponsor!

Please help support a rich cultural life
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YES, I want to support the 2009-2010 Jewish Film Series as a:

Star \$360

Includes two pairs of tickets to each screening in the series

Producer \$180

Includes one pair of tickets to each screening in the series

Director \$54

Includes one ticket to each film in the series

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