



Supported by  
The Jewish Federation  
OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT



# JLearn

*Turning the Page in*  
**Jewish  
Learning**

Winter/Spring Catalog of Classes

2023/5783



Welcome to the Winter-Spring 2023 Catalog of classes from JLearn, where adult Jewish learning meets today’s lifestyles. As our community turns a new page, we are excited to offer a wide selection of classes on ZOOM as well as in-person. Join a community of learners guided by the most talented instructors from the Detroit area and across the world. Whatever your interests, wherever you are, JLearn offers classes for you. History, religion, Talmud, ethics, Hebrew, the arts, current events and much more are all available. Join us in person, from the comfort of your home or even from your travels, as we turn the page on Adult Jewish Learning!

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**To register: 248-205-2557  
or JLearn.online**

At this time, masks are strongly suggested but not required at in-person classes. JLearn reserves the right to alter our Covid policies as we move forward, dependent on changing conditions.



A special event series from JLearn,  
with curriculum by  
the Shalom Hartman Institute

## THOUGHTFUL JUDAISM: PEOPLEHOOD AND PRACTICE IN TODAY'S CHANGING WORLD

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin , Rabbi Emeritus, Beth Israel – Ann Arbor

**ZOOM • WEDNESDAYS, 10 – 11:15 AM**

**Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr. 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

What does it mean to belong to the Jewish people? What are our strengths and challenges in this ever-changing world? An exciting, thought-provoking learning experience offering fundamental concepts of Judaism and Jewish life.

Learners are invited to participate in conversations that apply wisdom from ancient and modern texts to Jewish life and contemporary issues facing Judaism today. Explore compelling questions in Jewish thought, through the principles that are our Jewish heritage, as Rabbi Dobrusin masterfully guides you through exciting content from the Shalom Hartman Institute – a think tank for world Judaism.

**TUITION: \$175**

*Join us for Series 1 and then take Series 2 (Faith and Ethics), offered next Fall.*

*This is a pluralistic class for all levels of learners.*

**RABBI ROBERT DOBRUSIN** was born and raised in Boston and is Rabbi emeritus at Beth Israel in Ann Arbor, where he has served since 1988. He was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and in 2015 was named one of the 33 most inspiring rabbis in America by The Forward. He is a published author of numerous essays and sermons, and a book entitled *The Long Way Around: Stories and Sermons from a Life's Journey*.



# JUDAIC STUDIES CLASSES

## MONDAY CLASSES

### TORAH LINE BY LINE

Rabbi/Dr. Mitch Parker

ZOOM

**MONDAYS, 9:30 – 10:45 AM**

**Series 2: Jan. 9, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Series 3: Mar. 20, 27; Apr. 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22**

Join us as we begin an in-depth journey of the Book of Exodus. The children of Israel, who have been living a life of relative ease in Egypt for generations, now find themselves enslaved and oppressed by a new Pharaoh who is not familiar with the accomplishments of Joseph. During our weekly class, we will carefully analyze the original text in Hebrew and English and engage in lively conversations as we discover the multiple meanings of this foundational story of our people.

**Tuition: \$115 per 7-week series**

### MODERN JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS, PART 2

Jill Gutmann

ZOOM

**MONDAYS, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**Monthly: Jan. 9; Feb. 6; Mar. 13; Apr. 24; May 22**

Take a deep dive into the hot medical issues of the day with bioethicist Jill Gutmann. Whether it is a discussion of the impact on health of supply chains or the cost of prescription drugs, you will be guided through an engaging discussion while looking at the science, politics, Jewish commentary and other relevant sources to frame your opinion. Never knowing what the timely topic will be until class, this fun, informative and engaging class is sure to make you think and want the discussion to continue long after the class has ended.

**Tuition: \$100**

## READING BETWEEN THE LINES BIRTHDAY EDITION!

NEW  
CLASS



Rebecca Starr

In-Person | Max M. Fisher Federation Building

**MONDAYS, NOON - 1:15 PM**

Monthly: Mar. 20; Apr. 17; May 22

Read and discuss three books that bring Israel's history, culture, challenges, people, and strengths to light. *Raquela: A Woman of Israel* by Ruth Gruber is a look into the life of one woman at the time Israel declared statehood. *Mr. Mani*, by A.B. Yehoshua, one of Israel's most recognized authors, offers insight into one family's complicated past. *The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari, includes 11 short stories focused primarily on Israel's Mizrahi (Eastern) Jews.

**Tuition: \$50**

*Co-sponsored by Israel and Overseas Department,  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit*

## LISTEN TO THIS! A JEWISH PODCAST CLUB

Rebecca Starr

ZOOM

**MONDAYS, 7 - 8:15 PM**

Monthly: Nov 28; Dec. 12; Jan. 9; Feb. 6

The world of podcasts in the Jewish community is steadily growing in popularity and scope and includes significant content that extends well beyond studies of the weekly Torah portion. Today's most popular podcasts offer an opportunity to engage with current events, relevant Jewish ideas and important leaders. We will explore four of the most influential podcasts on the Jewish stage today including *Identity Crisis*, *Judaism Unbound*, *Israel Story* and *Chutzpod*. This is an opportunity to analyze conversations that are part of the Jewish communal landscape in real time while also offering an opportunity to apply their messages and lessons to our lives today. Participants in this group will be asked to listen to one 45-minute podcast before attending class. The podcasts will be assigned one week in advance.

**Tuition: \$65**

**MADE IN JEWISH DETROIT**

Robbie Terman

**NEW  
CLASS****In Person / Max M. Fisher Federation Building****MONDAYS, NOON - 1:15 PM****May 1, 8, 15**

The Detroit Jewish community we know today didn't just magically appear out of nowhere. People, planning and hard work created the core of Jewish Detroit. This course will take you back through time as you visit the origin stories of some of our community's most beloved institutions – schools, businesses, social clubs and events, and the people who made it all possible. Using archival photographs and other visual materials, Federation's archivist Robbie Terman will skillfully walk you back in time to nostalgic Detroit and the creation of a robust Detroit Jewish community.

**Tuition: \$50****TUESDAY CLASSES****THE ORIGINAL HALACHIC DEBATES**

Rabbi Michele Faudem

**Series 2:****ZOOM****Series 3:****In Person | Max M. Fisher Federation Building****TUESDAYS, 9:30 - 10:30 AM****Series 2: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28****Series 3: Mar. 14, 21, 28; Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23**

This class is reserved for students who have previously enrolled at this day and time.

**Tuition: \$115 per 9-week series**

## CHAPTER AND VERSE: PREPARING FOR THE SECOND TEMPLE

Rabbi Michele Faudem

Series 2:

ZOOM

Series 3:

In Person | Max M. Fisher Federation Building

**TUESDAYS, 10:45 – 11:45 AM**

Series 2: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

Series 3: Mar. 14, 21, 28; Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23

King Jehoiachin, his mother and the rest of the leaders of the Jewish people are exiled to Babylon and the Temple is about to be destroyed. Join us as we explore the words of Jeremiah, and how Ezekiel comforts and advises the people in Babylon as they prepare for their return and rebuilding of the Second Temple.

**Tuition: \$115 per 9-week series**

## PIRKEI AVOT (ETHICS OF THE FATHERS)

Rabbi Rod Glogower

ZOOM

**TUESDAYS, 10:30 AM – NOON**

Series 2: Jan. 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar. 14, 21, 28; Apr. 18, 25

Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) is a rich treasure trove of moral and ethical teachings of the Tannaitic rabbis. These maxims serve as guides for Jewish living. In this class, we continue to mine these inspiring materials by way of close textual analysis. Classic rabbinic commentaries from throughout the ages will serve as our guides. A famous passage in Pirkei Avot advises us with regard to the Torah: “Turn it and turn it, for everything is within it.” In this class, we will apply this teaching to the text of Pirkei Avot itself.

**Tuition: \$195**

## THE 10 STAGES THAT CREATED THE HOLOCAUST

Ruth Bergman

ZOOM

**TUESDAYS, 7 – 8:30 PM**

**Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13**

We want to believe that genocide is an outlier event in history committed by governments and beyond the control of ordinary citizens. The truth is, we all have the ability to stand up to hate and protect the rights of others. But how? Through the case study of the Holocaust we will investigate the stages a society goes through that can lead to genocide. Learn to identify the tools of propaganda and how to differentiate real news from “fake.” Discuss what ordinary citizens can do to ensure that “Never Again” becomes a reality for all people.

**Tuition: \$60**

*Co-Sponsored by the Zekelman Holocaust Center*

## JEWES AND JUDAISM: THE ESSENTIALS PART 2 – DIASPORA JUDAISM COMES OF AGE

Professor Howard Lupovitch

ZOOM

**TUESDAYS, 7 – 8:30 PM**

**Feb. 14, 21, 28; Mar. 21, 28; Apr. 18**

Moving ahead through history, we turn to the experience of Jews in the worlds of Christendom and Islam, and why the latter was generally better for Jews until the end of the Middle Ages. Along the way, we will encounter the triumph of Rabbinic Judaism, the roots, and beginnings of the Ashkenazic and Sephardic worlds – and the differences between them – and the growing Christian antagonism toward Jews that culminated with the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492.

**Tuition: \$115**

**No Pre-requisite for this class**

*Co-Sponsored by the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, Wayne State University and The Israel and Overseas Department, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit*



## ISRAEL AT 75: WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

NEW CLASS



Dr. Howard Lupovitch

ZOOM

TUESDAYS, 7 - 8:30 PM

May 2, 9, 16, 23

Look back at the seventy-five-year history of Medinat Yisrael (the state of Israel). Join Howard Lupovitch as he examines four distinct vantage points that have all contributed to the Israel we know today and will form the Israel of tomorrow:

- Zionist visions of a Jewish State and how much they were realized.
- The successes and failures of Israel's top five prime ministers including David Ben Gurion and Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel, the Palestinian Conflict, and the new Middle East.
- Israel's relationship with Diaspora Jewry and its impact.

**Tuition: \$80**

*Co-Sponsored by the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, Wayne State University and The Israel and Overseas Department, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit*

## WEDNESDAY CLASSES

### THE JOURNEY CONTINUES - DEEDS AND CREEDS

Rabbi Michele Faudem

ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 - 11:45 AM

Series 2: Dec. 7, 14; Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

Series 3: Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr. 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24

Join Rabbi Faudem as she guides you through your personal journey of Mitzvot. What do the Bible, Jewish texts and commentary say about our obligation to our family, the community and the world? What impact does this have on ourselves and others? Does it make us better people if we are simply fulfilling an obligation, or does it create a true change within?

**Tuition: \$160 per 10-week series**

## OPENING THE DOOR FOR ELIJAH (AND ELISHA, TOO)

Rabbi Rod Glogower

ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 AM – NOON

Series 2: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 15, 22, 29; Apr. 19, 26

The prophet Elijah looms large in Jewish folklore and tradition. In this course, we continue to study the figure of Elijah and his disciple Elisha as they emerge from the biblical text in the First and Second Book of Kings. Join us as our Tanakh series features close textual analysis based upon a wide range of commentators, both classical and modern. Explore the lives and significance of these two fascinating personalities of ancient Israel.

Tuition: \$195

## THOUGHTFUL JUDAISM: PEOPLEHOOD AND PRACTICE IN TODAY'S CHANGING WORLD

*A Shalom Hartman Institute Curriculum*

NEW  
CLASS

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS, 10 – 11:15 AM

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr. 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

What does it mean to belong to the Jewish people? What are our strengths and challenges in this ever-changing world? Participate in conversations that apply wisdom from ancient and modern texts to Jewish life and contemporary issues facing Judaism today. Explore compelling questions in Jewish thought as Rabbi Dobrusin masterfully guides you through exciting content from the Shalom Hartman Institute – a think tank for world Judaism. Join us for Series 1 and then take Series 2 (Faith and Ethics), offered next fall. This is a pluralistic class for all levels of learners.

Tuition: \$175

### CONTEMPORARY HALACHIC DEBATES: WOMENS' EDITION!

Rabbi Michele Faudem

ZOOM

**THURSDAYS, 9:30 – 10:30AM**

**Series 2: Dec. 1, 8, 15; Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16**

**Series 3: Feb. 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 20, 27; May 4, 11**

Jewish law (Halacha) has been the building foundation of the Jewish people for thousands of years. Who holds the final word on Halacha and why? This class will focus on current Judaic women's topics. Join Rabbi Faudem for lively weekly discussions and debates on contemporary issues, using Halacha as a starting point, to discover how decisions are reached, changed or compromised in today's world.

**Tuition: \$130 per 10-week series**

### AN ANGEL ON YOUR BACK: MESSAGES FROM ABOVE

Rabbi Michele Faudem

ZOOM

**THURSDAYS, 10:45 – 11:45 AM**

**Series 2: Dec. 1, 8, 15; Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16**

**Series 3: Feb. 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 20, 27; May 4, 11**

Do you ever get the feeling that a departed loved one is watching over you? Perhaps you have a strange feeling that someone is trying to communicate with you? Angels are supernatural beings that appear widely throughout Jewish literature. The Hebrew word for angel, *mal'ach*, means messenger, and the angels in early biblical writings deliver specific information or carry out some particular function. Join Rabbi Faudem as we explore the mystical world of Jewish angels, the afterlife and our souls in the next world.

**Tuition: \$130 per 10-week series**

## **NURTURING YOUR NASHAMA (SOUL): GROWING YOUR SPRING SOUL FOR THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

**NEW  
CLASS**

Rabbi Joseph Krakoff

**ZOOM**

**THURSDAYS, 10 – 11:30 AM**

**Feb. 23; Mar. 2, 16, 23**

Coming exactly one month apart, the Spring holidays of Purim and Passover are deeply and intimately connected to one another. It is the frivolity of Purim that allows us to comprehend the deeper themes of the day that might be too hard to recognize otherwise. So too with Passover, we can only fully embrace the concept of liberation if we understand that which enslaves us and holds us back even today. Join Rabbi Krakoff as we examine these two holy days and how they can help us enhance our overall Seder experience.

**Tuition: \$60**

## **COFFEE WITH THE RABBIS: NOT YOUR BUBBIES' BIBLE STORIES, PART 2**

Rabbi Joshua Bennett and Rabbi Joseph Krakoff

**ZOOM**

**THURSDAYS, 10 – 11:30 AM**

**Monthly: Feb. 16; Mar. 9; Apr. 20; May 18**

Settle in for a once-a-month exploration of some of the most thought-provoking biblical narratives and Jewish commentaries you definitely did not learn in Sunday school. Rabbi Josh Bennett and Rabbi Joseph Krakoff will be our guides as we explore, in depth, some of the most interesting and less studied verses and stories that will surely prompt discussion. Each class will focus on a theme gleaned from Jewish Biblical texts and their relevance and applicability to our lives and the modern era.

**Tuition: \$90**

## KING DAVID; MAN, OR MYTH?

Dr. Michael Pytlik

ZOOM

NEW  
CLASS

**THURSDAYS, NOON - 1:30 PM**

**Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 20, 27**

Explore the life, legends, history, archaeology, and art devoted to one of western tradition's most celebrated personalities, King David. Examine the rich textual history of David including biblical passages, his changing reputation over time, and critical responses to his life, as well as his actions in later works, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Talmud, mystical texts. We will address the man and the myth by looking at the historical existence of David apart from biblical texts. Focus will be given to the three archeological sites that Dr. Pytlik recently excavated in Israel, which date to the time of David.

**Tuition: \$140**

*Students should have a JPS Tanakh for use in the analysis of the Biblical story of David.*

## CONTEMPORARY HALACHIC DEBATES: QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rabbi Michele Faudem

ZOOM

**THURSDAYS, 7 - 8 PM**

**Series 2: Dec. 1, 8, 15; Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16**

**Series 3: Feb. 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 20, 27; May 4, 11**

Join Rabbi Faudem for a lively weekly discussion and debate on current, relevant topics. How does Halacha (Jewish Law) impact our everyday opinions and decisions? Join our round table discussion as Rabbi Faudem asks you to answer the question: "What are your questions, comments and concerns?"

**Tuition: \$130 per 10-week series**

## YIDDISHLANDS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

NEW  
CLASS

Dr. Avi Blitz

ZOOM

THURSDAYS, 7:30 – 8:45 PM

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9.

Journey across the European lands of Ashkenaz, the United States, and Israel for a tour of the history of Yiddish! Beginning in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, this course will introduce you to the origins of the Yiddish language. Study the rise of modern Yiddish culture in the late-nineteenth century and read and discuss short stories by a variety of different Yiddish writers. Examine the post-war fate of Yiddish in the USA and Israel. Yiddish phrases and their origins will be discussed as well as modern Yiddish writers who grappled with questions about Jewish identity and belonging. Each session will be part lecture, part discussion, part book club, and all enjoyment!

**Tuition: \$100**

Bonus: Registered students in Yiddishlands will receive complementary tickets to attend Opening Night of the 25th anniversary season of the Detroit Jewish Film Festival:

*Hidden Musical Gems from Yiddish Soundtracks*

*Thursday, April 27*

*7 PM – The Berman*

Hear luminous lesser-known songs from Yiddish cinema, performed in a variety of virtuosic original arrangements by Isle of Klezbos and friends lead by bandleader/film maven Eve Sicular.

*Co-sponsored by SAJE (Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment) and funded by a grant from Workmen's Circle.*

## PARSHA HASHAVUAH (WEEKLY TORAH PORTION)

Instructor: Community Rabbis, Cantors and Educators

ZOOM

FRIDAYS, 10 – 11 AM

Series 2: Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar. 3, 10

Series 3: Mar. 17, 24, 31; Apr. 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19; Jun. 2, 9

Each week a different rabbi, cantor or educator will present the weekly Torah portion from his or her own perspective. You never know who will be teaching each week, but it is always enlightening and engaging! Sign up for one ten-week series or the entire year. Students need to have a Tanakh (Bible).

**Tuition: \$125 per 10-week series**

*Co-sponsored by: The Michigan Board of Rabbis and  
The Michigan Board of Cantors*

## READING PAUL WITH THE RABBI

Rabbi Joseph Klein

ZOOM

FRIDAYS, 11:30AM – 1 PM

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

The Jesus Movement was no longer Jewish under the 1st Century influence of Paul, the most important figure for the Early Church. Paul's authentic New Testament letters will be examined carefully to explore his theology as a blending of Hellenistic thought and Jewish theology. The class will explore and explain why and how the Jewish Paul impacted and challenged the early community of Jesus-believers, and founded Christianity.

**Tuition: \$155**

## PARTING OF THE WAYS

Rabbi Joseph Klein

ZOOM

FRIDAYS, 11:30AM – 1 PM

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Apr. 21, 28; May 5

Beginning in the 2nd C, the reciprocal antagonism between Rabbinic Judaism and the Early Church created a legacy of hostility and distrust that has only begun to subside in our lifetime. This course will focus on writings of the early Church and Rabbinic literature into the 4th C., later manifestations of their mutual antipathy, and how more recently we have begun to reconcile.

**Tuition: \$155**

# HEBREW LANGUAGE & LITERATURE CLASSES

Supported by the Harold Wade Hebrew Literacy Fund  
Scholarships for Hebrew classes available upon request.  
(Listed in order of levels, by instructor)

## HEBREW 1

Instructor: Dorit Warfman

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Series 2: Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27;  
Mar. 13, 20, 27; Apr. 24

Tuition: \$150

## HEBREW 3

Instructor: Dorit Warfman

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 11AM – 12:15 PM

Series 2: Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27;  
Mar. 13, 20, 27; Apr. 24

Pre-requisite: Hebrew 2

Tuition: \$150

## HEBREW 5

Instructor: Dorit Warfman

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 7:30 – 8:45 PM

Series 2: Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27;  
Mar. 13, 20, 27; Apr. 24

Pre-requisite: Hebrew 4

Tuition: \$150

## HEBREW 7

Instructor: Dorit Warfman

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 12:30 – 1:45 PM

Series 2: Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27;  
Mar. 13, 20, 27; Apr. 24

Pre-requisite: Hebrew 6

Tuition: \$150

## ADVANCED HEBREW 1

Instructor: Nira Lev

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 10:30AM – NOON

Series 2: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 13, 20,  
27; Apr. 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15

Tuition: \$265

## ADVANCED BEGINNER HEBREW 2

Instructor: Nira Lev

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 12:30 – 1:45 PM

Series 2: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 13, 20,  
27; Apr. 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15

Tuition: \$175

## ADVANCED HEBREW 2

Instructor: Nira Lev

ZOOM

MONDAYS, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Series 2: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 13, 20,  
27; Apr. 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15

Tuition: \$265

## INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Instructor: Nira Lev

ZOOM

TUESDAYS, 11 AM – 12 NOON

Series 2: Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28;  
Mar. 14, 21, 28; Apr. 18, 25; May 2

Tuition: \$140



## ADVANCED HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2

Instructor: Nira Lev

**ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAYS, 10 AM - NOON**

Series 2: Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22

**Tuition: \$265**

## ADVANCE HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 3

Instructor: Nira Lev

**ZOOM**

**SUNDAYS, 10 AM - 12 NOON**

Series 2: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26

**Tuition: \$265**

For more information about Hebrew classes or to discuss placement of new students, contact Nira Lev, Director of Hebrew Programs, [amnira@ameritech.net](mailto:amnira@ameritech.net) or 248-330-3601.

## From JLearn's Friends at Adat Shalom Synagogue INTRO TO JUDAISM

**Rabbi Dan Horwitz**

**ZOOM • MONDAYS, 7-9 P.M.,**

from January 9 - May 22

\*no class on February 20 and April 10

Whether you were a Hebrew school rock star or dropout, are looking for a fun refresher course, are at the beginning of your Jewish learning journey, want to connect better with your partner, are Jewish or not Jewish or

Jew-ish, join us as we explore all the best of the Jewish tradition, from Torah to food to holidays to Israel and more!

**Cost: \$180 Non-members**

**\$54 members**

*Sponsored by Adat Shalom Synagogue in partnership with Miller Introduction to Judaism Program of American Jewish University*

**Registration link:**

<https://jlive.app/events/3070>

**Questions: 248-851-5100**



# THE INSTRUCTORS

**RABBI JOSHUA BENNETT** is a rabbi at Temple Israel of West Bloomfield. Ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1994, he holds a Masters Degree of Hebrew Letters as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Champaign. He has served the Jewish community in many roles including Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition, Salvation Army Legal Aid Clinic, Young Adult Division of the Allied Jewish Federation and The ADL. Social justice is a primary concern of his.

**RUTH BERGMAN** is the Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and did graduate work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Ruth completed a certificate in Jewish Leadership for Educators from Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership and currently is working on a certificate on nonprofit leadership from the Kellogg School of Management. She was an instructor for Melton, Limud Michigan and taught for Detroit's Jewish adult education programs for many years, including courses in antisemitism and Holocaust studies.

**DR. AVI BLITZ** is a graduate of Oxford University and Indiana University, has a PhD in Comparative Literature and is an experienced Jewish educator. He has taught Yiddish, Hebrew, and Jewish Studies at undergraduate and graduate level in the US, Israel, and in Argentina, where he teaches through the Buenos Aires branch of YIVO. Avi enjoys writing about Yiddish and has published his work in In Geveb, the online journal of Yiddish Studies.

**RABBI ROBERT DOBRUSIN** was born and raised in Boston and is currently rabbi emeritus at Beth Israel in Ann Arbor, where he has served since 1988. He was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and in 2015 was named one of the 33 most inspiring rabbis in America by The Forward. He is a published author of numerous essays and sermons, and a book entitled *The Long Way Around: Stories and Sermon's from a Life's Journey*.

**RABBI MICHELE FADEM** was ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1995 where she also earned her M.A. in Education. She was the Coordinator of Adult Jewish Education at the Houston JCC and the Melton Director of Houston. Rabbi Fadem was a popular Melton instructor and teaches numerous JLearn classes. She is the Rabbi Educator for Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit.

**RABBI ROD GLOGOWER** is the rabbinic resource person on staff of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation at the University of Michigan and an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School. He received his rabbinic ordination with distinction from Midrasha Seminary of Machon Harry Fischel in Jerusalem.

**JILL GUTMANN** has experiences in Jewish ethics, halakha, medical ethics and public health. She holds an AB from Smith College; Fulbright Grantee to South Korea; a Masters of Public Health from the University of Cincinnati and Jewish Ethics from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. She has served on hospital ethics boards and worked as an ethicist for the CDC and the Israeli Ministry of Health. She served on the faculty at the Melton School in Auckland, New Zealand.

**MICHAEL H. HODGES** is the recently retired fine-arts writer for The Detroit News, where he worked since 1991. *Building the Modern World: Albert Kahn in Detroit* is his second illustrated book on local architecture, and recently won the State History Award, as well as the Balthazar Korab Award “for significant contributions to architecture” from the Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Hodges’ first book, *Michigan’s Historic Railroad Stations*, was named a Notable Book for 2013 by the Library of Michigan. The author blames his architectural obsessions on the picturesque Rochester Hills dairy farm where he grew up, and the six years he spent as a student at the Cranbrook School for Boys.

**RABBI JOSEPH KLEIN** was Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El of Oak Park for 16 years before becoming Rabbi Emeritus in 2013. He holds a Master of Hebrew Letters and received his ordination from Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rabbi Klein has been Adjunct Professor at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana State University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is currently Adjunct Professor at Oakland University and Rochester College, and Visiting Rabbi with the Grosse Pointe Jewish Council.

**RABBI JOSEPH H. KRAKOFF** is the Senior Director of Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network. He also serves on the Hospice teams of Residential Hospice and Heart to Heart Hospice. Rabbi Krakoff offers classes and seminars on a variety of spiritual topics and is a guest lecturer in the Wayne State Medical School’s Health and Wellness program. Rabbi Krakoff is a graduate of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, California, and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, New York.

**NIRA LEV** holds two Master of Arts degrees from Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University and is a graduate of the Post Graduate Leadership Training Program from NYU. For over 30 years, she has been teaching Hebrew, Bible and Literature, training teachers and presenting workshops nationwide. Ms. Lev is the author of several Hebrew textbooks and of several publications and was the editor of the Hebrew monthly *Ivriton*. She currently teaches at Oakland University. She is a recipient of the Berman Outstanding Professional Service Award and of the Schochet Outstanding Teacher Award.

**PROFESSOR HOWARD LUPOVITCH** received a Ph.D. in Jewish History from Columbia University. He has taught at Cornell University, Colby College, the University of Western Ontario and University of Michigan where he was also a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies. He is currently Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University. Professor Lupovitch is the 2009 winner of the Benard L. Maas Prize for Achievement in Jewish Culture and Continuity in the Area of Humanities.

**RABBI DR. MITCH PARKER** has been teaching Torah in the Detroit area for more than two decades. He is a child psychologist working with the families of children with developmental and learning challenges. Mitch previously has worked in a Children's Hospital and both a secular and a Jewish school for children with developmental disabilities in Buffalo and Toronto. He developed the Parent Education Program for the Florence Melton School and was the Special Needs Director at Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit. Mitch has just retired as the Rabbi of B'nai Israel Synagogue in West Bloomfield.

**DR. MICHAEL PYTLIK** is Adjunct Assistant Professor in Anthropology and Religion and the Director of Jewish Studies at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. He has excavated a number of biblical and more recent sites in Israel and takes students from Oakland to Israel each year on excavations. Dr. Pytlik has a Bachelor's degree in History and Philosophy, a Masters in Jewish Studies and a Doctorate in Jewish Studies from Spertus College of Judaic Studies and Leadership, Chicago. His area of study was historical and theological questions relating to the early Israelite monarchy at the time of King David.

**REBECCA STARR** is the Midwest Manager at Shalom Hartman Institute of North America where she oversees all program development, management and partnerships in the Midwest region. Ms. Starr is a respected educator and community organizer. She served as an Assistant Director of the Alliance for Jewish Education at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and directed the Detroit branch of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, where she later served as a Melton faculty member.

**ROBBIE TERMAN** is the Director of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives. She holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science and a certification in Archival Administration from Wayne State University. As an archivist, she uses her research skills to uncover stories of the past. She has performed extensive genealogy research for herself and others and has taught workshops for beginning genealogists.

**DORIT WARFMAN** was a public educator in Israel from 1998 - 2006. She was a superintendent for a kibbutz school responsible for the programming of children, ages 1 - 18. She holds both a teaching certificate and an Industrial Engineering degree. Ms. Warfman and her husband recently moved from Israel to Michigan to be close to her sons and their families.

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