

Schedule of Classes

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Creative Ways to Enhance our Practice as Jewish Early Childhood Professionals

Alyse Eisenberg, Shirley Barish Education Enrichment Scholar

Reiches Hall

Jewish values, Pirke Avot and creative materials will serve as our guide as we reflect on our practices and learn new ways to connect with children and their families in our care. Participants will leave inspired to take action in creating a more caring and kind classroom community.

9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Creating an Inclusive Environment in your Classroom and at Birthday Parties

Laura Alter

Room 1

Learn how to create inclusive events, both in and outside of the classroom, that include all children and improve communication between parents and teachers. Teach children about acceptance, sensitivity and connection to others who may have a visible or hidden disability.

From Torah and Talmud to Today: A History of Jewish #MeToo Moments

Rabbi Annie Belford

Room 22

The experience of women being subjugated by men, and standing next to men, is not entirely new in Jewish history. This text-based class will examine ways women have been heart-breakingly harmed and awesomely empowered throughout Jewish history.

Modern Wisdom From An Ancient Sage: Hillel the Elder

Rabbi Matthew Berger

Room 18

The great sage and rabbi Hillel is renowned for his wisdom and for conveying a message of openness in Judaism. His spirit of welcoming others and teaching about what is good and right is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.

The Art of Jerusalem

Greta Bernitz

Art Lab

Create a decorative tile depicting the Old City of Jerusalem. Class will use paint pens and markers. This class is for teachers and adults.

Soulful Songs of Hallelujah, Hope, and Healing

Sacha Bodner and Friends

Gym

We all need somebody to lean on. Start Yom Limmud with intention, soul, and harmony as we raise our voices in song. Join new and old friends, learn new and true tunes, and begin the day with a little more pep in your step. Musicians will include Sacha Bodner, Michael Mason, Lydia Musher, Mark Schlackman, and Rabbi Ranon Teller.

Vision to A Better You and a Better World

Devorah Cohen

Board Room

A hands-on workshop experience. Clarify your goals. Tap into your potential. Create a collage of your vision and aspirations for the best version of you and the world around you. Supplies included.

The Kabbalah of World Redemption

Rabbi Yaakov Cohen

Room 25

Come discover three key principles handed down in our mystical tradition that teach us special techniques to direct our thoughts and actions, that can facilitate inner personal redemption as well as our outer global tikkun olam.

The Exodus: How it Happened and Why it Matters

Dr. Richard Elliot Friedman

Room 15

Yes. There was an Exodus from Egypt, although not quite the way it is described in the Torah. Professor Friedman will summarize the evidence for the exodus, more fully described in his new book on the subject, and then explain why it matters.

Growing Your Toolbox of Mindfulness Practices

Chava Gal-Or

Youth Lounge

Life is always busy, yet we have the power to create practices that allow us to pause. As someone who loves prayer, chanting, meditation, writing, and art, I have learned that creating mindfulness practices around things I love helps keep me centered and focused in all areas of my life. Come willing to play and build your own toolbox.

Expanding What We Know About Ourselves Through Our Dreams and Art

Anna Guerra

Room 4

We have denied, unrealized and unclaimed parts of us that often get projected onto others. Compassion is kindled when we can own those unconscious parts of us. We can expand what we know about ourselves through dreams and the expressive arts. This lecture addresses how our dreams and engagement in the expressive arts can help us expand what we know about ourselves.

Enlivening the Jewish Classroom with Music and Movement

Mister G and Missus G

Music Room

Latin GRAMMY winner Mister G (Ben Gundersheimer, M.Ed) and Missus G (Katherine Jamieson, MFA), will teach simple ways to weave songs and movement into the Jewish classroom, and use music as a jumping off point for lessons and activities around Judaism, community service, and environmental awareness. They'll be sharing insights from their decade plus experience performing original multi-cultural music around the world. As this is will be an experiential workshop, teachers should be ready to sing and dance -- and have fun!

#MikvahforEveryone

Alisha Klapholz

Room 17

What is a mikvah? What can you expect when you go there? And what are some of the ways mikvah can be helpful in your life? Join a discussion of traditions and recent innovations, and walk away with some ceremonies for your Jewish ritual toolbox.

Star of David: A Deeper Look

Rabbi Zally Lazarus

Room 16

The origin of the Star of David is unknown; its history and legacy are shrouded in mystery. A random shape, or specifically six points? Why is it named after David? What can we learn from its meaning?

End of Life Decision-Making: An Obligation

Rebecca Lunstroth

Room 24

Technology has the ability to keep a dying person alive, but what obligation do we have to utilize or forgo it? In this workshop, learn about the history, trends and available resources for end of life planning.

Anti-Semitism: Its Rise, How We Track It, What We Can Do About It

Dena Marks

Stein Hall East

The title says it all: learn how ADL tracks anti-Semitism and hate incidents, how both are on the rise, and what we can do to combat hate.

Women Welcome: The Unlocking of Advanced Talmud Study for Women

Rabbanit Sally Mayer, Barish Shabbat Limmud Scholar

Greenfield Chapel

"Women aren't capable of or suited to serious Talmud study." As a woman teaching Talmud and Jewish Law on a high level, I have heard that question all too many times over the past 30 years. What's behind the reluctance and what's the basis for the embrace of women's advanced Talmudic learning? Join us as we explore the sources and the impact of the revolution in women's Torah study.

Love from the Song of Songs

Rabbi Harvey Rosenstock, M.D.

Room 14

The history of the meaning of the Song of Songs will be explained through the ages. Sacredness or eroticism? We will examine for today, the multidimensional expressions of mutual love, both private and public.

Jewish-American Poetry

Dr. Irving N. Rothman

Sofer Reading Room

The link between Jewish poets and America is grounded in the very foundation of the country's symbols of freedom and tolerance. Jewish American poetry – such as Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" and Emma Lazarus' inscription on the Statue of Liberty – explores a wide variety of subjects, including family, home and public spaces, kitchens and synagogue architecture, and food.

A Taste of Ladino

Sarah Rousso

Room 3

We will look at texts in Ladino and enjoy an hour of song, proverbs and stories about the diverse Ladino culture.

Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of Substance Use

Laurie Silver

Bride's Room

We need to recognize the signs and symptoms when a loved one is using substances. Yet we are not naturally equipped to know what we are seeing. Join this session to learn about the warning signs of substance use and misuse so that if your friend, colleague, partner or family member needs support, you will be prepared to offer meaningful and compassionate support.

The Essence of a Jew is to be Thankful

Rabbi Brian Strauss

Friedman/Levit Sanctuary

In our busy lives, gratitude often gets overlooked. The effects of having gratitude on the human psyche are only beginning to be understood by the world. Together we will explore the life-changing power of gratitude.

9:30 AM – 10:20 AM continued

Prayer 101: The Who, What, When, Where and Why

Rabbi Aryeh Wolbe

Room 2

Discover the deeper secrets and meanings behind our prayer and its relevance in our daily life.

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Raising the Child's Voice in Jewish Learning

Rabbi Rebecca Milder, Shirley Barish Education Enrichment Scholar

Stein Hall West

What does it mean to raise the child's voice in Jewish learning? What goals do we have for children's Jewish learning? These questions lie at the heart of a shift taking place in Jewish children's learning across North America. We'll look at the "why" and the "how" of making the child's voice an essential component of Jewish learning. We'll consider why raising the child's voice in Jewish learning is critical not only for the future of Judaism, but for addressing complex challenges in our world today.

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Hebrew Jump Start: Learn How To Read Hebrew In Three Hours!

Rabbi Stuart Federow

Room 23

The first step to understanding the Hebrew Scriptures or the Prayer Book in the language in which they were written is to be able to read, to vocalize, the Hebrew letters and vowels. It is far easier to learn to read Hebrew than it is to learn to read English because Hebrew is phonetic, and the pronunciation is consistent. In just three hours we will learn to vocalize, to pronounce the Hebrew letters and vowels and we will be reading from the Prayer Book or the Bible, in the original, in the third hour!

10:30 AM – 11:20 AM

NBC's "The Eternal Light"

Paula Eisenstein Baker

Board Room

NBC launched the radio program "The Eternal Light" in October 1944. We will look at the musical material heard during the episode entitled "Rachel," a story of the Palestinian (i.e., pre-state Israel) poet Ra'hel. The program was first broadcast on 24 March 1946 and rebroadcast on 18 March 1973 .

Honesty is the Best Policy...Except When It Isn't

Rabbi Barry Gelman

Room 2

Is lying for a "good cause" permitted? What about withholding medical information from a sick family member? What does this all have to do with "fake news"?

Jewish Studies at The University of Houston: Where the Global Becomes the Local

Dr. Mark Goldberg and Dr. Caryn Tamber-Rosenau

Room 3

The University of Houston boasts one of the most diverse student bodies in the country, most of whom stay in the Houston area after graduation. Learn about what teaching Jewish Studies to a mix of Jewish and non-Jewish students at our unique city university looks like.

Can I Really Do This?

Rabbi Jill Levy

Room 25

What Jewish wisdom says about our ability to make the world a better (or worse) place.

Modern Jewish Dadding

Michael Mason

Bride's Room

Jewish dads are very involved in family life. What are dads thinking about in terms of family and how can Judaism guide us?

Jewish Thought in Modern Comic Books

Todd Nelkin

Sofer Reading Room

A look at Superman, Batman, Spiderman and the Fantastic Four as they relate to Jewish culture and history.

Make a Beautiful Etched Glass Kiddush Cup

Michelle Renfrow

Art Lab

Make a one-of-a-kind etched glass kiddush cup for Shabbat and holidays using your own design or a pre-cut design.

Judaism and Christianity: Eight Essential Differences

Rabbi David Rosen

Room 14

We are grateful to live in a community where Judaism and Christianity live alongside each other with mutual respect. We are rightly regarded as "sister religions," which affirms there are many beliefs and values we share. How, though, are we different, and what are eight essential differences that are essential to understanding why we have remained on parallel but separate tracks for some 2,000 years?

Saving a Life: Moral Dilemmas

Rabbi Jack Segal

Room 22

By saving someone else, you may suffer severe injuries or even die. May one perform experiments on animals in order to possibly help humans? Whom do you help - a total stranger or your personal pet - if you can only save one?

Learning Through Play with Young Children

Rebecca Weiner

Room 4

Play is the birthplace of curiosity, creativity, communication, and more! Children learn through play, and play teaches them how to learn. This interactive workshop will teach parents and educators how to positively engage young children in play to support their learning, nurture relationships, and cultivate curiosity, creativity, communication and more.

10:30 AM – 11:40 AM

How to Prepare Your Child for First Grade in a Fun Way!

Rinat Alatin

Room 1

Guiding parents to deal with the transition from pre-k to elementary school. Workshop for Hebrew speakers only.

The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom: Working Together to Put an End to Hate.

Emily Deakins and Nabila Mansoor

Room 24

Learn how the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom grows relationships between Muslim and Jewish women to build bridges and fight hate, negative stereotyping and prejudice.

Once We Were Slaves: Healthcare Response to Human Trafficking in Houston

Dr. Mollie Gordon

Stein Hall East

Houston is one of the leading cities in the United States for human trafficking. We will discuss what healthcare systems are doing to respond and how you can be an informed citizen on the topic.

The DNA of the Jewish People

Bennett Greenspan

Room 16

The actual origins of much of World Jewry is in doubt according to our detractors. Let's see what the genetic record says.

Talking About the Revolution: Israeli Music and Social Change

Hadas Levy

Room 15

We will discuss different aspects of social change through the lens of Israeli music from the establishment of the State of Israel to modern days.

A Jewish Perspective of Reincarnation

Rabbi Deborah Schloss

Youth Lounge

Reincarnation is a Jewish perspective for how we can make ourselves and our world better: one lifetime at a time. Enjoy a text-based study of some Jewish views of the afterlife with which many people are not familiar. Texts will be presented in English.

Lessons about Anti-Semitism from the Film "School Ties"

Rabbi Kenny Weiss

Room 18

The 1992 film "School Ties" depicts anti-Semitism at a 1950's elite boarding school. What lessons about contemporary anti-Semitism and our response to it can we learn from this film? How do individual and institutional responses differ? We'll review the plot and view some clips together, so there's no need to have previously viewed the film.

The Shema: Condensing Judaism into Three Paragraphs (or Six Words)

Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe

Room 17

The first six words of the Shema are the first words taught to a Jewish child, and the ones uttered before death. What is the secret of this sentence and how can we unleash its power?

He Was One Of Us! American Jewry's Relationship With Abraham Lincoln

Rabbi Gary Zola, Barish Shabbat Limmud Scholar

Greenfield Chapel

*This session is based on Professor Zola's volume, *We Called Him Rabbi Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry* (Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 2014) Few are aware of the remarkable history linking American Jewry and President Lincoln. Dr. Zola will explain why many of Lincoln's personal and professional characteristics have caused American Jews to embrace the sixteenth president as a man who possessed a Jewish soul. Lincoln's remarkable human qualities offer American Jewry an uplifting legacy to ponder.*

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PJ LIBRARY FAMILY CONCERT

Mister G and Missus G

Freedman Levit Sanctuary

Join Latin Grammy Award Winner Mister G (Ben Gundersheimer) and Missus G (Katherine Jamieson) for an unforgettable, interactive family dance concert. They perform internationally headlining major venues such as Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits, and New Orleans JazzFest. Mister G has been commissioned by PJ Library to write two albums of original Jewish-themed music which have been distributed to 10s of 1000s of Jewish families around the world. This concert will double as the CD release concert for his brand new PJ Library album, Seeds of Shalom.

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM
Lunch and Learn

Thanks, Mom and Dad: Raising Grateful Children

Rabbi Joshua Fixler

Room 22

Science has shown that gratitude can have immensely positive impact on the health and well-being of children and adults. Join us for this open conversation about how we can raise grateful and hopeful children using Judaism's most ancient tools and modern parenting's most impactful philosophies. We will also discuss combatting the "gimmies" with simple strategies that can be meaningful for the whole family.

The Tower of Babel: In Defense of Diversity

Gabi Gelman

Room 2

A textual analysis of the Tower of Babel narrative. What was the goal and why did G-d reject it?

Classic Tales of Tikkun

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Sofer Reading Room

The heart of a Jewish soul is embodied by story. Our very survival can be linked to the way traditional stories touch our hearts and inspire our actions. Mixing in new perspectives help keep tales timeless, as real for tomorrow as they were yesterday.

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM continued
Lunch and Learn

The Secret to Greatness: Living A Life of Which the Almighty Will Be Proud

Rabbi Gavriel Jacknin

Room 3

We will dissect different episodes in the Torah to identify the common denominator of greatness with key characters in the Torah. This secret will teach us how to live a life of happiness and meaning.

Jewish Perspectives on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addiction

Dr. Larry Laufman

Board Room

Many of us grew up thinking that alcoholism and substance abuse were problems for non-Jews, and living a good Jewish life protected against such addictive behaviors. However, these problems are also found in the Jewish community. This class will review traditional Jewish concerns, approaches, and resources related to alcohol and substance abuse. Note: The class is for learning about resources; it will NOT be a forum for sharing personal stories.

Broken Tablets: Fall From Grace and Coming Back Again

Rabbi Gidon Moskovitz

Room 25

What the breaking of the Tablets in the aftermath of the Golden Calf, and the receiving of the second Tablets teach us about our lives as Jews.

Tikkun Olam at the Table: Jewish Values for Eating Sustainably

Nancy Pryzant Picus

Room 14

In this session, we'll look at some issues connected to food through the lens of Jewish values. Some topics we might explore include sustainability in food production, genetically engineered foods (GMO), and food distribution and waste.

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM continued
Lunch and Learn

Introduction to Spiritual Direction: Where Are You on Your Sacred Journey?

Janice Rubin

Music Room

Spiritual Direction is an ancient practice of exploring how the sacred is working in a person's life. We will examine tools to deepen our connection to the Mystery of the Universe. Through a practice of intention and discernment, one may discover inner wisdom which can help shape a life of purpose and meaning.

Self-Care as a Protective Factor for Suicide Prevention

Laurie Silver

Bride's Room

In our western culture, we generally know what steps we are supposed to follow to stay physically healthy. The tools for staying mentally healthy are not as well-known and not commonly practiced. As its worst outcome, deferring mental wellbeing can lead to feelings of hopelessness and thoughts of self-harm. Learning the basics of self-care and committing to practicing self-care with discipline and regularity is essential for mental health and well-being. Join me to learn how to care for your mind wellness.

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Do You Know Me? Young Children as the Curriculum – Infants, Toddlers and Twos

Alyse Eisenberg, Shirley Barish Education Enrichment Scholar

Reiches Hall

Using a multi-media approach, we will explore the beauty of this special time in early childhood development. This session will give participants an opportunity to learn strategies to better hear the voice of the child, provide more meaningful experiences and share the capabilities of our youngest learners.

"We've Got How Many Religions in Houston??"

Some of the Lesser Known Religions in the Bayou City and Their Contributions

Jodi Bernstein, Moderator, and panel

Stein Hall East

Enjoy and learn from a panel of leaders from the Sikh, Jain, Bahai and Hindu faiths as they share about their communities' presence in Houston and how their communities contribute to our city. Panelists will include: a religious leader from the Jain community; Mr. Raj Salhotra, Arya Samaj Houston and Young Hindus of Houston; Ms. Manpreet Kaur, Sikh Coalition; Mr. Kayvon Haghepykar, Bahais of Houston. Moderator: Jodi Bernstein, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Creating Opportunities for Global Solutions

Madeline Burak

Room 1

With many problems around the world, consider why a strong US - Israel relationship can play a role in helping to find opportunities and create global cooperation.

"Neither Here Nor There, Really??" How Conservative Judaism Really Moves

Rabbi Sarah Fort

Stein Hall West

"Not Orthodox, not Reform" is so very far from capturing the full scope of Conservative Judaism. Explore what makes it a unique, dynamic and beautiful blend of tradition and modernity by looking at how it approaches modern life through an ancient lens.

Hidden Stars: The Beth Jacob Banner and Houston Jews in World War II

Dr. Joshua Furman

Room 14

Using rare archival sources from the collections of the Houston Jewish History Archive, we'll discuss how Houston's Jewish community experienced World War II both at home and abroad.

Kindness and Peace Rocks

Jodi Gold

Art Lab

Hand paint beautiful rocks with kind words of how we can make our world a more beautiful place.

Judaism, Spirituality and Mental Health

Rabbi Dovid Goldstein

Room 22

Rabbi Goldstein, Jewish Chaplain of the Menninger Clinic, will share his experiences, anecdotes and Jewish sources to discuss how a wholesome approach involving Judaism, Mysticism and Spirituality can help.

Make the World a Better Place from Within

Chaviva Granitsky

Room 17

The Three Principles is a simple understanding that brings peace and helps you gain deep insight into yourself and the world around you. Mind, Thought and Consciousness working together to guide us to experience life the way G-d intended. Join me in reimagining the world at its source.

Can We Teach our Children Truth? How to Raise Moral Children

Debbie Greenblatt, Barish Shabbat Limmud Scholar

Greenfield Chapel

In a world where everyone has their own truth, how can we help our children discern what's real? This class will explore basic ideas and techniques to help our children become great people.

Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World through Song

Mister G and Missus G

Music Room

Join Latin Grammy Award winner Mister G (Ben Gundersheimer, M.Ed.) and Missus G (Katherine Jamieson, MFA) for an inspiring workshop about the role that music can play to develop the value of tikkun olam for children and families. Drawing on their original PJ Library albums "The Mitzvah Bus" and "Seeds of Shalom," they'll be sharing insights from their decade plus experience performing for children and families around the world. This will be a dynamic, interactive workshop so come ready to sing and dance!

Help Your Children/Students Grow To Their Potential

Rabbi Chaim Helprin

Room 4

Tips and tricks for building the next generation.

Bringing Tzedakah Home

Avital Ingber

Room 25

How do you model philanthropic values for your children? Learn about ways to bring tzedakah and philanthropic values into your home with your kids. You will walk away with tangible conversations, projects and ideas to have with your children about charitable giving.

How to Make a Fun Child-Friendly Seder

Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs

Room 18

Have you ever wondered how to include kids in your seder and how to make your seder fun and meaningful for all involved? Let's explore many different options.

Refugee Resettlement: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis

Elena Korbut

Room 24

This class will focus on refugee resettlement as a global issue affecting over 25.4 million individuals worldwide, and the process refugees getting resettled in the United States undergo. Elena will also discuss local solutions to the crisis with Houston leading the nation as one of the most successful cities resettling refugees and helping them integrate in our community. We will also examine a variety of ways the Houston community can act to support refugee families.

Be the Change: Israel's Educational Nonprofits Lead to Change

Hadas Levy

Room 15

We will learn about innovative Israeli educational non profits that change the lives of kids and youth all around Israel. We will 'meet' the people who establish those non profits, their view on social change and the stories of the kids with whom they work each day.

Jewish Responses to Suffering

Rabbi Joshua Lobel

Room 16

In this text-based session, we will explore traditional Jewish views relating to the meaning of suffering and the Jewish response. How do we understand and confront life's challenges? What is our obligation to others?

12:30 PM – 1:20 PM continued

Heaven, Hell, and Maimonides' 13 Principles of Faith

Rabbi Steven Morgen

Sofer Reading Room

What did Maimonides really believe about Heaven, Hell and Afterlife? What did he believe about the Messianic Era and Resurrection of the Dead? We will study Maimonides' shocking essay on these subjects including his Thirteen Principles of Faith.

Esther, Vashti and #MeToo

Rabbi Samantha Safran

Room 3

The Purim story is a treasured and celebratory tale of Jewish victory. However, how does our understanding of it change in light of the #MeToo movement? Come and explore traditional and contemporary perspectives of Esther and Vashti in order to form a more nuanced appreciation of these important Jewish women.

Talking to Children About Death

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Bride's Room

Talking to children about death can feel scary and difficult. Discover and explore Jewish sources and community resources that can help you feel more prepared for this important conversation.

Arukah (Health): Can We Restore Ourselves And The World Through Dietary Changes?

Dr. Andres Splenser

Room 2

We will discuss the restorative power of diet in self-healing, how to minimize health risks and medication use. More importantly, participants will discuss the environmental benefits of a plant-based diet and the best diets for our environment.

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

The Sudanese Desert: A Story With An Important Lesson

Rabbi Chili Birnbaum

Room 4

Lessons from a story taking place in the Sudanese Desert will lead to a discussion about gaining a positive perspective on life.

The Future that Lies in the Negev

Gil Brav

Room 14

Negev - the Israeli desert holds 8 percent of the population but is 60 percent of the land. We will learn about the importance of the Negev, why Israel is trying to convince people to move there and how that can benefit the world.

Inviting Others to Join Us on Our Journey:

Why Judaism Needs to Become a Missionary Religion Again

Rabbi Stuart Federow

Room 23

We will look at biblical and rabbinic quotations commanding the Jews to actively proselytize our society and culture and explore why it's necessary today.

Finding Comfort: Seeing G-D through the Blinding Pain

Rabbi Mendel Feigenson

Room 2

How to cope with pain and tragedy. What does Judaism offer as a response to, and relief from life's difficulties?

The End of Sacrifices

Aaron Howard

Room 3

With the destruction of the Second Temple, sacrifices as the central focus of Judaism ended. What was the system of sacrifices about and how did post-Temple Judaism respond to the end of the temple cult?

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM continued

The Kotel Plaza and Conversion: An Update

Consul General Gilad Katz

Room 15

This lecture will provide an update on the current situation in Israel regarding the Kotel Plaza and Conversions.

The Mollie & Louis Kaplan Museum of Judaica: A Tour

Dr. Daniel Musher

Zubowski B

A guided tour of the extraordinary collection in the Kaplan Judaica museum. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the objects and their history.

Exploring the Context for Adolescent Depression, Anxiety and Suicidal Ideation

Laurie Silver

Bride's Room

Learn about the biology of stress and adversity, the guidelines for supporting your teenagers' self-regulation and wellness and the language of parental understanding.

1:30 PM – 2:40 PM

To Whisper or To Shout: Communicating in Times of Trouble

Michael Duke and Dr. Mary Lee Webeck

Stein Hall East

During the complex times in which we live, with rising incidences of hate crimes and anti-Semitism, we are inspired by a quote from the Ringleblum Archive, which was kept in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust, "To scream the truth at the world." From the backgrounds of journalism and education, and with a propensity for advocacy, this interactive session explores historic and contemporary ideas about communication as we plumb concepts of identity and advocacy for respect and social justice. We hope you will join us.

Do You Know Me? Young Children as the Curriculum – Threes and Fours

Alyse Eisenberg, Shirley Barish Education Enrichment Scholar

Reiches Hall

Using a multi-media approach, we will explore the beauty of this special time in early childhood development. This session will give participants an opportunity to learn strategies to better hear the voice of the child, provide more meaningful experiences and share the capabilities of these young learners.

Praying with our Feet: Songs and Texts of Protest

Rabbi Joshua Fixler and Cantor Rollin Simmons

Music Room

What can ancient Jewish texts about holy protesters like Abraham and Job teach us about advocacy? What can prophets teach us about how to speak truth to power? How can the protest music of the last 60 years lift our spirits and strengthen our resolve? Come ready to learn and sing as we prepare our souls and soles to march for justice.

The Secret to Bullyproofing Your Children and Students

Rivka Fishman

Room 17

Learn easy to implement skills to help your children and students build resilience and navigate conflict that leads to bullying.

A Pilgrimage of Lament: Faith and Racial Justice

Rabbi Oren Hayon and Panel

Freedman/Levit Sanctuary

Join us as a panel of four clergy members, representing different religious traditions, discusses their shared journey on a "Pilgrimage of Lament" and an exploration of race and justice. The panel, in addition to Rabbi Hayon, will include: Rev. Duane Larson (Christ the King Lutheran Church), Rev. Michael Dunn (First Christian Church), and Rev. Neil Willard (Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church).

Bnei-Anusim, Conversos, and New Christians in the 21st Century Jewish World

Dr. Marie-Theresa Hernandez

Room 16

Bnei-Anusim, Conversos, and New Christians are terms used for the descendants of Jews who converted during the Spanish and Mexican Inquisition. Research is showing that a significant percentage of people with family connections to Latin America have a tie to Jewish history. How could this history stay alive for so many centuries? What is the challenge in the relationship between those long ago converts and the current Jewish community? Can differences in perspective be negotiated?

Ancient Answers to Good and Evil that Were Cut from the Bible

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Greenfield Chapel

The second half of the Adam and Eve story, missing from the Bible. Abraham's formative childhood, the mysterious Enoch, and the way all three ancient scriptural texts explore the nature of our lives as they explain good and evil.

Challah Bake

Michal Jacknin

Art Room

We will braid challah and learn about this special Mitzvah. All ages welcome.

Meditation in Judaism

Dr. Larry Laufman

Room 22

The word "meditation" sounds foreign to many of us, bringing images of mystics, Asian religious practices, or just a quiet time to think - or let our minds wander. Certainly not "Jewish." However, meditation has been a part of Jewish religious life ever since Bible times. This class will review a variety of Jewish sources on Jewish meditation and provide several resources that participants may wish to pursue on their own.

A Child's Voice as an Essential Component of Text Study

Rabbi Rebecca Milder, Shirley Barish Education Enrichment Scholar

Stein Hall West

In this session, we will explore a technique for children's Torah study that lets children participate in our ancient and ongoing Jewish conversation as equals. We'll consider how we can teach critical thinking, creativity, and empathy through text study, and leave with a tool we can use in classrooms of various ages.

Dealing with Anti-Semitism

Lisa Stone

Board Room

ADL's "Word to Action" helps prepare Jewish students and parents to respond constructively to anti-Semitism, which continues to increase in our schools and communities. While the news is not good, there is strength in learning how to safely stand up for ourselves as Jews, and to stand up to all prejudice and hatred.

Israeli-Jewish Folk Dance

Rachel Weisblatt

Gym

In this class, Rachel teaches authentic Israeli and Jewish folkdances, music, and themes which originate from the Jewish experience. They tell the story of the Jewish people from biblical to present day times. Regardless of tempo or rhythms, Rachel faithfully adheres to classical Israeli movements. Dances and music suit all tastes and dance familiarity. They open the door to a fun-filled experience found in hundreds of groups throughout Israel, the United States, and the world.