

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



THE GERALD SCHWARTZ/
HEATHER REISMAN
CENTRE FOR JEWISH LEARNING AT
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

FALL/WINTER 2011/2012
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 5772



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

ק"ק פרחי קדש

FEATURE EVENTS LISTINGS

The Gerald Schwartz / Heather Reisman Fall Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

Rabbi Eric Yoffie	October 25, 2011
Yossi Klein HaLevi	November 10, 2011
Benny Morris	November 17, 2011

Shabbat at Holy Blossom Temple

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Moscovitz	August 13, 20, 27 September 3, 10, 17, 24 October 1
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The Wisdom of the Talmud Starting October 15 and throughout the year, every Shabbat morning.

Sisterhood Torah Study - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb Wednesdays

Yiddish Novel - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb Begins Tuesday, October 25

Advanced Hebrew Grammar - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb Begins Wednesday, October 26

Temple Singers - Cantor Benjamin Maissner Begins Sunday, October 23, 2011

Our Learning for the High Holy Days

Selichot.	Saturday, September 24, 2011
Yom Kippur Study Sessions	October 8, 2011

Book Talk with Hirsh Goodman

The Anatomy of Israel's Survival Thursday, September 22, 2011

Study as Worship, Worship as Study

Jews speak to God in prayer. God speaks to us when we study.

Service Leaders Workshop

Rabbi Yael Splansky, Lindi Rivers Monday, September 12, 2011

Siddur Launch

Siddur Pichei Kodesh Saturday, October 29, 2011

Study as Worship

Rabbi Yael Splansky. Mondays: November 7, 14, 21

Holocaust Education Week. Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Scholar in Residence

Jews and Money Friday, November 11 - 12, 2011



WHY STUDY IS IMPORTANT

Rabbi John Moscovitz

As much as anything, Judaism – of the Bible, and of the Rabbis and beyond – is constructed and designed to provide Jews a way to think.

When I say to think, I mean: How to view the world and our role in it; how to understand what God expects of us, and how we ought best respond; and how to make order out of what is often disorderly, so that human life has sufficient coherence to make it livable and meaningful. In other words, our Divinely-given divergent brains, our capability at discernment and reason are provided and intended by God that we have some Heaven (order, perfection, fairness, fullness, harmony) on Earth.

But all of this is hard to imagine, and even harder to come by, when it appears that God is more absent than present. The Rabbis certainly thought so – they were agitated that God seemed so available and immediate in Biblical days, and more or less nowhere to be seen in their own.

Sound familiar?

In the absence then of God's presence, and in need of making sense of life, of bringing order from chaos, of helping people be most human, the Rabbis began by asserting that the intellect – this unique brain of ours – is a vehicle to sanctify life. Hence, their emphasis on the life of the mind, on learning sacred literature. To learn well is to think better; and to think better is to be better: better human beings, better Jews, better partners with God in bringing sanity, maybe even sanctity, to our world.

And, therefore, it is our privilege and good fortune to have our Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre For Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom Temple. Grateful to our members, Gerry and Heather for their belief in the synagogue and this Centre; with appreciation to our Director of Education, Debbie Spiegel who, along with her committee, gives direction to our learning opportunities – here is this year's invitation to come and learn with us, and to help make the world a bit better, insight by insight, class by class. Lecture by lecture, action by action...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Moscovitz', written in a cursive style.

All courses, lectures and book talks listed in this calendar are free for Holy Blossom Temple members, except where designated.

To sign up for any course requiring registration, please call Elana Fehler at 416.789.3291 (ext. 532), unless otherwise indicated.

Please visit our website for more information at www.holyblossom.org.



THE GERALD SCHWARTZ/HEATHER REISMAN
FALL LECTURE SERIES AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

WHAT MUST ISRAEL DO TO SURVIVE - AND THRIVE?
THREE LEADING FIGURES WEIGH IN



Rabbi Eric Yoffie,
President,
Union For Reform Judaism

October 25, 2011 at 8 p.m.



Yossi Klein HaLevi,
Author;
Senior Fellow, Shalom Hartman
Institute, Jerusalem

November 10, 2011 at 8 p.m.



Benny Morris,
Professor,
Ben Gurion University, Beersheba, Israel

November 17, 2011 at 8 p.m.

SHABBAT AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Moscovitz

On Speech and Language as an Animator of Religious Experience:

How To Understand What The High Holy Days Are Saying

August 13, 20, 27; September 3, 10, 17, 24; October 1 at 9 a.m.

Our study and discussion will explore the origins and development of human speech and language as the animating force of Genesis, as the bridge between the Divine and the Human, and as the medium of the themes of the Yamim Noraim. We will ask how language specialists, the Bible, and the Rabbis of Old understand the power of human speech, and the propensity for humans to use their unique capacity both for good and for ill.

The Wisdom of the Talmud

Starting October 15 and throughout the year, every Shabbat morning.

As the Rabbis interpreted the Bible and constructed a new Judaism for very different times, they thought deeply as to how Jews, all people really, ought best live to achieve the sense of being part of something larger – of community, of purpose, of God.

All beginners along with long-time learners – are welcome as we explore Rabbinic thinking on: our relationships with one another, friends, family, strangers; our relationship with God; how we use (or abuse) money, sexuality and work; how freedom and responsibility fit together; and the working out of our particularity and our broader humanity (the observance of ritual and of the Jewish calendar while living in the larger world).

Learners Minyan - Why Is Torah Read Three Times a Week? (every other week)

Rabbi Edward Goldfarb. *Let's learn together why study is the most important component of the service.*

November 5; December 3, 2011; January 7, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.

Shabbat Meditation

Michelle Katz. Jewish Meditation Teacher and Spiritual Director

September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17; January 28 at 10:15 a.m.

Please join me in enhancing our prayer and deepening our connection with God. Using a variety of techniques for reflection and contemplation, we will focus on texts from our tradition, eliciting response and deep listening.

Women's Rosh Hodesh Beit Midrash

September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17; January 21

Join us once a month after Shabbat Kiddush as we gather to learn the weekly Torah portion using the WRJ's, The Torah, A Women's Commentary. Everyone welcome.



ONGOING LEARNING

Sisterhood Torah Study - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb

How did the “Children of Israel” become the “Nation of Israel?” The book of Exodus provides the narrative for this journey of self-discovery.

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Yiddish Novel - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb

Begins Tuesday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy the best of Yiddish literature, read and translated with commentary.

Advanced Hebrew Grammar - Rabbi Edward Goldfarb

Begins Wednesday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we parse the Hebrew Bible and discover its real meaning.

Temple Singers - Cantor Benjamin Maissner

Begins Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 10 a.m.

Our Holy Blossom Temple Singers learn the joy of liturgy every Sunday and greatly enhance the musical and prayer life of the synagogue. Join us for our weekly rehearsals as this volunteer choir sings at least twice a month at Shabbat and holiday services. New singers are welcome.

Contact Mari Lynn Rusak (ext 224).

OUR LEARNING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS



Rabbi John Moscowitz



Rabbi Debra Landsberg



Rabbi Michael Dolgin

Selichot

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Holy Blossom Temple, Temple Sinai and Temple Emanu-El together. All taking place at Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Road.

9:00 p.m.: Refreshments.

9.30 p.m.: *“What I Believe About the World to Come: Three Rabbis, Three Views”*

Rabbi John Moscowitz, Rabbi Debra Landsberg, Rabbi Michael Dolgin.

10.30 p.m.: Selichot Services

Yom Kippur Study Sessions

October 8, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

Rabbi Marmur *Waiting for God*

Hershell Ezrin *Canada’s changing political environment and the implications for Jewish interests*

Michelle Katz *Salachti Kidvarecha-I have forgiven you as you have asked*

Jewish Meditation Teacher And Spiritual Director.

Through silent contemplation and reflective study we will attempt to overcome the sense of God’s distance through self-forgiveness and acceptance of Divine forgiveness.

OUR PROGRAMS

HBT: You're a Member, Now What?

Choose from one of the following:

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

This learning opportunity will focus on who we are and how to enjoy your membership. This orientation and tour of HBT is especially valuable to all new members in the last several years, pre-school and religious school parents, prospective new members and our current long-standing members who wish to be updated on what the Temple has to offer. Come and meet our senior staff and lay leaders.

*This first session will include tips on how to get the most out of your High Holy Day experience at HBT.

RSVP Elana Fehler, ext 221 or voice mail ext. 532.

Joshua Then and Now

Rabbi Michael Stroh

Tuesdays: September 20 - October 11, 2011 at 10.30 a.m.

Joshua Then and Now: a discussion of the settlement in the Land of Israel in the days of Joshua and the settlement in our day.

Sunday Book Club

The Free World by **David Bezmozgis**

Sharon Singer, Facilitator

Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Bezmozgis writes about the Krasnansky family who flee Soviet Latvia in the late 1970s for Rome, where Jewish refugees contemplate their chances of emigrating to Canada, America, or Australia while awaiting news of Israel's peace with Egypt amid widespread anti-Zionism. The travails of the family unfold throughout this complex social novel whose relevance will

be obvious to any reader genuinely curious about recent history, the limits of love, and the unexpected burdens that attend the arrival of freedom.

Future Sunday Book Club dates:

October 23, November 20, December 18, January 22 and more to follow the second half of the year.

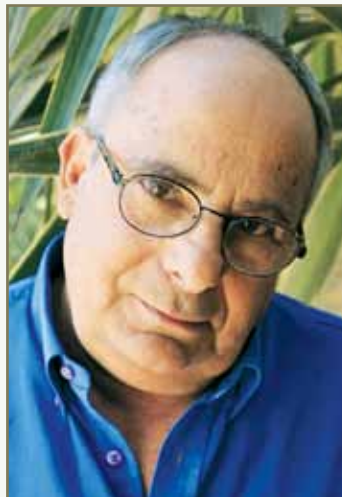
We ask for members input as to the books read, and welcome newcomers!

Book Talk with Hirsh Goodman

The Anatomy of Israel's Survival

Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 8 p.m.

The question "Can Israel survive?" has echoed loud for Israelis – and Jews, their supporters and adversaries worldwide – since the Holocaust. Hirsh Goodman attempts to answer it through rigorous factual assessment of each of the challenges his country faces, and by consulting experts and participants on all sides of every complex issue.



Hirsh Goodman,
Senior Research
Associate at the Jaffe
Center for Strategic
Studies at Tel Aviv
University.

Sisterhood Retreat

Women and Jewish Law:

Women through the lens of Jewish Law: from ancient times to the modern world

Rabbi Karen Thomashow

October 14 - 16, 2011 - Horseshoe Resort, Barrie

Jewish Law, which dates back as far as the Bible, addresses the role of women in terms of personhood, parenthood, and community member.

The evolution of Jewish law throughout the centuries has influenced women in all of these areas – some well-known and others surprising. During the study sessions at our retreat, we will have the opportunity to learn more about our ancestors and ourselves through the lens of Jewish law, and life.

\$285.00 for Sisterhood Members

\$320.00 for Non-Sisterhood Members

RSVP Elana Fehler, ext 221 or voicemail 532

Let Me Compare Thee...

Cynthia Good, Director,

Creative Book Publishing, Humber College

Tuesdays: October 18 - November 22, 2011 at 9:30

The three books to be reviewed include: *The Cookbook Collector*, by Allegra Goodman, who explores the character of two very different sisters from a Jewish family; *Limassol* by Israeli writer Yishai Sarid, who explores the experience of a high-ranking official in the Israeli secret; and *Earth and High Heaven* by Gwethalyn Graham which portrays the romance between a young woman from a wealthy Protestant family in Westmount, and a Jewish lawyer and soldier from Northern Ontario.

New Participants always welcome!

W. Gunther Plaut Humanitarian Award

Redeeming Goodness:

Refugees and the Struggle for Canada

Monday, October 31, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Honoured recipient - **Dr. Mary Jo Leddy**, member of the Order of Canada, writer, speaker, theologian and social activist.



Dr. Mary Jo Leddy

We will honour Dr. Leddy for her work with refugees at Toronto's Romero House.

The founding editor of the *Catholic New Times* and the author of the books "Say to the Darkness We Beg to Differ", *Reweaving Religious Life: Beyond the Liberal Model*, *At the Border Called Hope: Where Refugees are Neighbours and Radical Gratitude*.



סדור פרחי קדש

Study as Worship, Worship as Study

Jews speak to God in prayer. God speaks to us when we study.

The following courses and programs lead us to this path.

Service Leaders Workshop

Rabbi Yael Splansky, Lindi Rivers

Monday, September 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for the mincha service at 6 p.m. followed by pot-luck dinner and study for all who lead our congregation in weekday services. Open to all interested in joining our corps of daily service leaders and gabbaim.

Contact Joanne Polito at ext. 276.

Siddur Launch

Siddur Pirchei Kodesh

Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

The entire congregation is invited to celebrate the arrival of *Siddur Pirchei Kodesh*, the new prayerbook for Holy Blossom Temple. Service followed by a joyful Kiddush-luncheon.

Study as Worship

Rabbi Yael Splansky

Mondays: November 7, 14 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.

In Judaism, sacred study is a form of worship, of praising God, and marveling at the mysteries of God's world. The newly launched *Siddur Pirchei Kodesh* is rich with texts – Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval, and Modern. We'll consider these and add our own voices, too, as we ask the eternal questions embedded in the prayerbook. Among them are: What does God do? What does God want from the Jewish People and from me? Does God even hear my prayers?

Films of the Jewish Diaspora

Dr. Gillian Helfield, York University

Tuesdays: November 2, 16, 30, at 7:30 p.m.

This three-part series examines Jewish Diasporic Cinema. We will discuss and screen excerpts from various Jewish films from around the world which demonstrate the survival and persistence of Jewish culture in radically different geographic and social environments.

We also will explore the ways in which, throughout this century of global and economic migration, the meaning of 'diaspora' has broadened its scope beyond the ancient exodus from Palestine, to become a valuable tool in contemporary debates surrounding (Jewish) identity, nationalism, exile and belonging.



Holocaust Education Week

Opening program of 2011 Holocaust Education Week

The Eichmann Trial: A Perspective after 50 Years

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Deborah E. Lipstadt will present the keynote Opening lecture, based on her recently published book of the same title. She will highlight the legal implications of the trial, the international reception of the trial in the 1960s, and discuss how the trial has become a media event.



Deborah E. Lipstadt

She will also focus on the Eichmann trial in contemporary perspective, including its impact and the developments and challenges that have arisen from it. The author will be available for book signing after the lecture.

Dr. Lipstadt is Director of the Rabbi Donald A. Tam Institute for Jewish Studies and Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, Atlanta.

Introduced by HEW Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Michael R. Marrus. Former Ambassador of The Netherlands to Canada, Karel de Beer, 2011-2012 Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF), will deliver official greetings to the 2011 Holocaust Education Week.



Sponsored by:

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre.

Generously co-sponsored by The Ganz Family Charitable Foundation. We also thank the Gottesman family for their support of this program, in memory of Carol & Herman Gottesman.

Three Iranian Women Remember

Dr. Rivanne Sandler, University of Toronto

Wednesdays: November 9, 23, December 7, 2011
at 7:30 p.m.

Each was born in a different decade, into a unique social environment, yet they are united in a desire to leave behind a record of a life lived. What can the memoirs tell us about a particular time, and place and an individual.

Dr. Sandler will review the following novels:

Shusha Guppy – *The Blindfold Horse. Memories Of A Persian Childhood. A Girl In Paris. A Persian Encounter With the West.*

Firoozeh Dumas – *Funny in Farsi. A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America.*

Farideh Goldin – *Wedding Song. Memoirs of an Iranian Jewish Woman.* 2003 Co-Sponsored by Sisterhood

Festive and Reflective Psalms:

Rabbi Karen Thomashow

Tuesdays: November 29, December 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

The biblical book of Psalms contains 150. In this two week course, we will explore a small number of the larger corpus. The first week will concentrate on Psalms typically read on joyous and holiday occasions. The second week will focus on Psalms typically read during periods of mourning and trouble. Both weeks will include some dedicated time to the history and significance of this biblical section.

Scholar in Residence

Jews and Money

Friday, November 11 - 12, 2011

Rabbi Steven Leder,

Wilshire Blvd Temple, Los Angeles, CA



Rabbi Steven Leder

November 11

Following Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner at 6 p.m.

More Money Than God; Living a Rich Life Without Losing Your Soul, aka Your Money or Your Life? How has money replaced real spirituality in western culture and what we can do to protect

our children, grandchildren and ourselves, from money's most corrosive effects by employing the wisdom of Jewish tradition?

For Shabbat evening pot luck dinner reservations contact Elana ext. 221 or voicemail 532.

Shabbat, November 12

Shabbat Morning Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Eight Centuries and Nothing Has Changed: The Rambam's teachings on Materialism and the problem of Evil.

Shabbat, November 12

Shabbat morning sermon at 10:30 a.m.

Honoring our children for who they are rather than what we want them to be.

Shabbat, November 12

After Kiddush at 1:00 p.m.

Living as a Good Ancestor This session will guide people through the process of synthesizing each of the above sessions into the writing of an ethical will to their children and/or grandchildren.

The Future of the West; 9/11 Ten Years On

Mark Steyn, noted author, journalist and political analyst
in conversation with Dr. Elliott Malamet

Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by Torah in Motion



Mark Steyn

Judaism Across the Spectrum; A panel discussion

Rabbi John Moscovitz, Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Beth Tzedec Congregation,
Toronto

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, Congregation Tifereth Beth
David Jerusalem, Montreal

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Moderated by: Dr. Elliott Malamet

Sponsored by Torah in Motion



2012 COURSES

Lost Scriptures - Books That Never Made It Into Anyone's Bible

Prof. Barrie Wilson, Professor Emeritus, Humanities and Religious Studies, York University

Tuesdays: January 17-31, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Influential writings from the first two centuries BCE and CE that never made it into either the Hebrew Bible or the Christian Scriptures. The Jewish heroine Judith who single-handedly saves her people. Joseph the Patriarch and his Egyptian wife Aseneth. The messianic Psalms of Solomon (no, not the Psalms of David). Infancy tales about Jesus. Mary's own special birth and upbringing in the Temple. Mary Magdalene as the chief apostle. What Thecla did on hearing Paul preach. And others. We'll read from translations of the texts themselves. Moreover, how did the Bible come to be? On what grounds were some writings excluded?

Introduction to Talmud III:

Rabbi Karen Thomashow

Wednesdays: January 18 - February 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

In our tradition, the Talmud has been compared to a sea-vast, expansive, deep. There is much to learn from the wisdom of our rabbis who sought to expand upon the understanding of the laws of the Bible. Through the process, the rabbis left us with principles that while deduced from the law, may be applied to other time periods, persons, and life

in general. This third incarnation of Talmud study will continue to explore the fascinating principles from the Talmud.

Please note: no previous experience necessary. You may join the course at any time.

Israel: A State of Exception?

Derek J. Penslar, Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish History Associate Chair, Department of History (2010-11) University of Toronto


Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.



Derek J. Penslar

Why does Israel receive so much attention in the media and international community? Why do its actions come under such harsh criticism? This talk seeks to answer these questions, paying attention to reasons both intrinsic - what the state of Israel really is and does - and extrinsic - how it is perceived by others.

Watch for more learning opportunities in our upcoming Winter/Spring - Schwartz/Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning brochure.



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

If you are not a member of Holy Blossom,
would you like to join?

Our congregation offers a wide range of
programming for families of all ages.

Our Klei Kodesh and Director of Education welcome
the opportunity to speak with you about the many
benefits of membership at Holy Blossom Temple.

For more information, please contact Loriellen

Karam, Director of Membership at

416.789.3291 ext. 227 or lkaram@holyblossom.org

We look forward to seeing you again at Holy Blossom Temple.



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416.789.3291 • www.holyblossom.org