

Peninsula Temple Beth El 2011 Adult Studies & Arts Program



PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL
1700 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Mateo
650 341 7701
www.ptbe.org

Torah & Talmud Study

TORAH ONE ON ONE

A New Adult Studies Initiative — Your Journey Into a Unique Mode of Chevruta (study partner) Learning



Torah One On One provides a flexible and personal modality for Jewish study. Our tradition teaches, “*Aseh l’cha rav uk’neh l’cha chaver*,” - “Get yourself a teacher and acquire yourself a learning companion” (Pirkei Avot 1:6). When you sign up, you will be matched with another congregant with whom you will study weekly according to the schedule you arrange. You and your partner will have the opportunity to connect to Jewish texts and to one another. Rabbi Karen Citrin will periodically check in with your *chevruta*.

A great opportunity to study Torah on your own terms! The first study text will be: *Sparks Beneath the Surface - A Spiritual Commentary on the Torah* by Lawrence S. Kushner and Kerry M. Olitzky. No charge for this class. A limited number of used copies are available to borrow from the temple library or you may buy your own copy online.

Informational Meeting — Sunday, January 30, 9:15 – 10:30 am

- ✓ Come learn more about this exciting new way to study Torah and meet your *chevruta* partner. You can come with a partner or we will be happy to match you.
- ✓ If you can't come to this meeting, don't worry. This is an ongoing program and you and a partner can start at any time.
- ✓ **Are you interested?** RSVP to cserbin@ptbe.org. Cindi will email you an informational questionnaire to fill out to return by January 24.
- ✓ Please note, this program is for temple members only.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Rabbi Dennis Eisner

Saturdays, 9:00 am, ongoing

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to explore your own religious ideas in an active dialogue with other congregants and through the wisdom of traditional commentaries. This ongoing weekly study session is open to all. Feel free to join in at any time during the year.

LUNCHTIME TALMUD

Rabbi Karen Citrin

Wednesdays at noon, ongoing

Bring your lunch for this weekly one-hour class as you study and debate Talmudic texts and issues of our times. Now in its 8th year, the class has explored Talmudic topics such as blessings and prayer, death and the world-to-come, capital punishment, study and learning, Jewish holidays, stories of the sages, marriage, and women. Come see what else the Talmud has to offer and add your voice to the chain of Jewish tradition, interpretation and commentary. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Join in at any time.



Death and Mourning

Responding to Life's Toughest Questions

A THREE-WEEK SEMINAR WITH RABBI EISNER

This class will be offered at two different times:

Class A. Sundays, February 6, 13, and March 6, 9:30 – 11 am

Class B. Thursdays, March 3, 10 & 17 at 7:30 – 9:00 pm



This class is designed to help you better understand the Jewish customs and values regarding death and burial. You will learn the answers to the many questions you have about the end of life from both the practical and spiritual standpoint.

What to do when a loved one dies?

What is *shiva*?

What happens at a Jewish funeral?

Can we observe Jewish mourning rituals for non-Jewish relatives?

Can we recite *kaddish* for non-Jews?

Do Jews believe in life after death?

What do Jews believe about cremation?

Can people with tattoos and piercings be buried in a Jewish cemetery?

How do we talk to children about death?

A visit to the historic cemeteries in Colma will be held on a Sunday in the Spring at a date and time to be determined. Visit the graves of Wyatt Earp and other well known San Franciscans and learn about the early settlers of San Francisco and their contribution to the Bay Area.

No charge. See registration form.

OR HALEV

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH SPIRITUALITY AT BETH EL

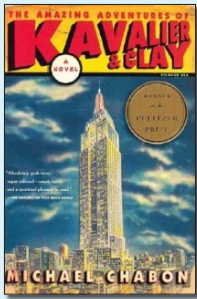
Jewish Meditation Sits – Most Mondays, August through May, 7 – 8:15 pm

Or HaLev (Light of the Heart) is for those who want to explore a variety of pathways in Jewish spirituality. The foundation of the program is weekly Jewish meditation sits. Ancient Jewish practices such as chanting, silences, prayer and focus on the breath lead us to deepen our relationship with G-d. We have four renowned teachers who each offer a unique style of meditation. Whether you are new to Jewish meditation or are experienced, all are welcomed.



Book Club with Rabbi Eisner

In November 1997, Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, unveiled an initiative to encourage every Reform Jew to read significant Jewish books. Since then, the Union has selected eight volumes each year and prepared study guides for them. To see a list of more significant Jewish books, visit <http://urj.org/learning/my/books/>.

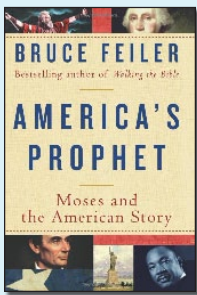


February 10, 7:30 pm

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay

The Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel by Michael Chabon

A novel about magic, manhood, superheroes, and growing up Jewish in America in the 1930s and 1940s. Sammy Klayman is a young man from Brooklyn with a love for pulp fiction and comic books, and is struggling with his sexual identity. Josef Kavalier is an apprentice magician and an artist who escapes Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia by hiding in a coffin along with the Golem of Prague. The novel traces the two cousins from 1939 to 1954 as they break into publishing and confront love, war, and loss.

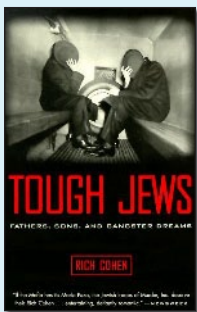


March 29, 7:30 pm

America's Prophet

How the Story of Moses Shaped America by Bruce Feiler

One part adventure story, one part literary detective story, one part exploration of faith in contemporary life, *America's Prophet* takes readers through the landmarks of America's narrative—from Gettysburg to Selma, the Silver Screen to the Oval Office—to understand how Moses has shaped the nation's character. Meticulously researched and highly readable, *America's Prophet* is a thrilling, original work of history that will forever change how we view America, our faith, and our future.

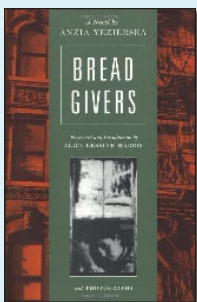


April 28, 7:30 pm

Tough Jews

Father, Sons, and Gangster Dreams by Rich Cohen

Tough Jews is not only a cultural history of the Jewish gangsters who thrived in New York in the first few decades of the twentieth-century, but also the story of the gangsters' effect on the imaginations of young Jewish kids living in New York City at the time—kids like Rich Cohen's father, Herbie, his friend Larry Zeiger (now Larry King of television fame), and many others of their generation who in imitation of the gangsters gave each other outlandish nicknames—Mouth Piece, Who-Ha, Inky, Gutter Rat. Tracing a generation of Jewish gangsters from the candy stores of Brownsville to the clubhouses of the Lower East Side, and occasionally, to suites at the Waldorf—*Tough Jews* is a colorfully detailed and gruesomely funny history of muscle, moxie, and money.



June 16, 7:30 pm

Bread Givers

A novel by Anzia Yezierska

Of the many books written about the experiences of the American Jewish immigrant, most were authored by men. Anzia Yezierska was one of the few women who wrote stories about the lives of women as they struggled to find their own identity. *Bread Givers*, one of the most widely read and respected of these books, offers a glimpse into the life of Sara Smolinsky as she grows from a young child into a strong and independent woman. Through Sara and the themes of this book we begin to understand the struggles of American Jewish immigrant women: the differences between men and women, between old world and new world values, between rich and poor, between dependency and independency, and between religion and assimilation.

A copy of each book is available to borrow. Contact Cindi in the office. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* is available in book stores. The other books are available online.

See registration form.

Jewish Life in America

Be on the lookout for new classes

BACK TO BASICS

Coming this Summer

An introduction to Judaism class will cover:

- ☆ **History**
- ☆ **Introduction to Jewish texts**
- ☆ **Life cycles**
- ☆ **Holidays and prayers**

This class is great for couples getting married, interfaith families, or for anyone wanting to brush up on their knowledge of Judaism.



Alan Fleishman, author of the novel *Goliath's Head*

HOW THE TSARS SAVED JUDAISM

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 pm



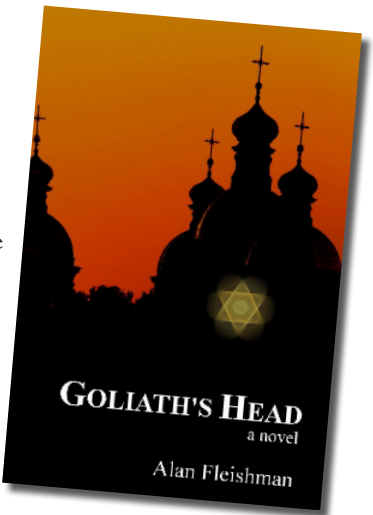
After a visit to his ancestral home in the Ukraine, Alan Fleishman was moved to examine the history of his people and compelled to draw attention to the victimization of Jews during the pogroms in Tsarist Russia, events that are still relatively unknown by many people.

In his novel, Fleishman draws on true events and his own family's history, revisiting this terrifying time in history through the eyes of Avi Schneider. The story follows Avi through two decades, from his boyhood in Uman, to meeting the love of his life, to the beginning of the pogroms in his village.

Fleishman's presentation will focus on Jewish life in the Tsars' Pale of Settlement from 1792 to 1906, and the exodus of over 2 million Jews to America and Palestine.

The book is available in our Gift Shop. Dessert reception and book signing will follow.

Alan Fleishman has been an army officer, senior corporate executive, marketing consultant, adjunct faculty at UC Berkeley, corporate board member, and community volunteer. *Goliath's Head* is his first novel.



No charge. See registration form.

The Art of Arthur Szyk

Rabbi Irvin Ungar

DOCENT LED TOUR OF ARTHUR SZYK EXHIBITION

Docent Led Tour of Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Modern Illuminations

Exhibition at The Legion of Honor Fine Arts Museum, San Francisco

Saturday, February 5, 2:00 pm (meet at 1:45 pm)

Rabbi Ungar will lead a personalized gallery walkthrough and talk which will cover the long and varied career of the Polish-Jewish artist Arthur Szyk (b. Łódź, Poland 1894 – d. New Canaan, CT 1951), from the rich illuminations of his Paris period to his World War II political art to limited edition fine art books such as his famous Passover Haggadah. This one-of-a-kind program will offer amazing insight into one of the most exciting art exhibitions of the new year. *Approximately one hour, with 30 minute Q&A session to follow in the Legion Cafe. Meet at the front desk of the Legion of Honor at 1:45 pm after purchasing your ticket.*



See registration form. No extra charge over price of museum admission.

Rabbi Irvin Ungar and Elana Jagoda

MODEL SEDER AND BOOK LAUNCH — *The Szyk Haggadah*, Now in Paperback!

Thursday, April 7, 7:30–9:00 pm

Experience the 20th century's greatest illuminated Haggadah during a special Passover event. Rabbi Irvin Ungar, the catalyst of the renaissance of Polish-Jewish artist Arthur Szyk (1894–1951), will guide you through the messages and meaning of the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*. Follow the model Seder, including a symbolic Passover meal, and portions of the Seder liturgy led by Elana Jagoda, including *Dayeinu*, *Had Gadya*, and the Four Questions while using your own copy of *The Szyk Haggadah*. You'll come away with a deep understanding and appreciation for Szyk's modern visual commentary on the ancient Passover story. *Recommended for adults. Dessert and coffee will be served.*

Fee (price to be determined) includes one paperback copy of the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (New York: Abrams, 2011).

See Registration form.



THE SZYK HAGGADAH TEXTUAL STUDY WITH RABBI IRVIN UNGAR

Extended Torah Study & Potluck Dairy Brunch

Saturday, April 23, 9:00–11:00 am

Rabbi Irvin Ungar, the world's foremost expert on the art of Arthur Szyk (1894–1951), will lead a study of Szyk's illuminated *Passover Haggadah*, first published in 1940. A Polish Jew, keenly aware of current events, Arthur Szyk fused his two passions, art and history, into a visual commentary on the dangerous parallel between the Exodus narrative of Egyptian oppression and alarming developments unfolding in Nazi Germany. Szyk's 48 intensely detailed paintings contain the full text of the *Haggadah* in exquisite Hebrew calligraphy and will provide the basis for discussion.

See registration form for brunch.

Irvin Ungar

Irvin Ungar, an antiquarian bookseller, former pulpit rabbi and temple member, is the world's foremost expert on Arthur Szyk. As the curator of The Arthur Szyk Society, he has curated major exhibitions of Szyk's art at the Library of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Deutsches Historisches Museum; he also is a lender and consultant to the new exhibition at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. To learn more about our speaker and about Arthur Szyk, visit www.szyk.com.

About *The Szyk Haggadah*

The Szyk Haggadah is one of the most beautiful, celebrated, and moving of all illustrated *haggadot*. Drawn and first published during the rise of Hitler, *The Szyk Haggadah* is a triumphant and enduring work of hope and courage, the supreme expression of one artist's love for his people and his heritage. A new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*—published by Abrams (New York) and Historicana (Burlingame, CA) will be available in paperback and hardcover in March 2011. It contains full-color illustrations of Szyk's stunning illuminations as well as a new translation and commentary by renowned theologian Byron L. Sherwin with Irvin Ungar. It is based on the new luxury limited edition of *The Szyk Haggadah* (Historicana, 2008).



Synaplex Shabbat



Synaplex Shabbat Friday, February 4

- 5:30 pm Community Shabbat Dinner
- 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Hallelu Service with Elana Jagoda and the Hallelu Band
- 8:00 pm Professor Paul Liptz
- 8:00 pm Fun Trivia Challenge Just for Kids

Synaplex Shabbat Saturday, February 5

- 9:00 am Torah Study with Rabbi Eisner
- 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
- 2:00 pm Docent Led Tour of the Arthur Syzk Exhibit at the Legion of Honor
- 8:00 pm Saul Kaye in Concert

PJCC North Peninsula Visiting Scholar-in-Residence



PROFESSOR PAUL LIPTZ

Democracy Faces a Non-Democratic Electorate: A Critical Analysis of Israel Today

Friday, February 4, following the 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Hallelu Service

The 2009 Israeli election revealed a complex and changing society. The influx of Russian speakers, the power of the Sephardi Shas Party and the strains on democracy by living in a conflict zone—all challenge contemporary Israel. The lecture will analyze a dynamic country that has been remarkably successful in certain realms but faces serious challenges in others.

Professor Liptz is an esteemed social historian who lectured in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University, and currently teaches Israel Studies at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and the Anita Saltz Educational Center of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. A published author who has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the world, he is recognized as an outstanding Scholar-in-Residence on complex Jewish issues.

Professor Liptz is the PJCC North Peninsula Visiting Scholar-in-Residence, made possible by The Koret-Taube Initiative, A New Look at Jewish Culture and Peoplehood.

SAUL KAYE IN CONCERT

February 5, 8:00 pm

Jewish Blues – Volume Two

You might know him as the other cat in the hat in the Hallelu Band; you might have heard that he was our High Holy Days Musical Director last year, or that he was the producer of Elana Jagoda's *Uri Uri* CD.

Well, did you know that our own Saul Kaye is an international touring artist, playing over 150 shows a year on four continents? Yes, it's true! Saul just released his 7th CD - *Jewish Blues Volume Two*! This CD is the second in a series of ten he's releasing in this new genre.

We'll get treated to a full band rendition of the songs on his new CD, songs from *Jewish Blues Volume One*, and a sneak preview of a song or two from *Jewish Blues Volume Three*! If you like the Blues, *niggunim*, Muddy Waters, or Shlomo Carlebach, this concert is not to be missed!



Cost of admission: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$5 teens and free for children 12 and under. Includes wine and dessert reception.

SYNAPLEX SHABBAT – GOING GREEN May 13



Save the date for an Eco-friendly Synaplex Shabbat. There will be an eco-conscious and sumptuous dinner to begin the evening and various speakers on relevant topics that will interest the Eco-Jew in all of us.

The event will be coordinated by the PTBE Green Team, *Tikkun Adamah*. If you are interested in joining in the planning contact Jill Goldring, haugengoldring@yahoo.com or Nancy Schneider, hnschneider@astound.net.

The concept behind Synaplex Shabbat is to strengthen the Jewish community through innovative, dynamic and meaningful Shabbat experiences, all taking place in the synagogue.

Join us for any (or all) of the programs to celebrate the many expressions of Judaism: prayer, learning, culture, and social gathering. Synaplex at PTBE is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, The Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. JCF works to care for the vulnerable, educate and engage the Jewish community, and promote Israel and Jewish peoplehood around the world. For more information, visit www.sjcf.org.



*All classes are held at Peninsula Temple Beth El**

Registration Form

To help us properly prepare for these classes, we ask that you register in advance.
 There is no charge for classes except as noted. Donations to PTBE's Adult Education are greatly appreciated.
 Checks may be made payable to PTBE, or we can bill your account. To register for a class, either send in this form to
 Peninsula Temple Beth El, 1700 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403, or email cserbin@ptbe.org

- January 30 **Torah One On One** Informational Meeting *(Contact Cindi Serbin for registration form)*
- February 4 Community Dinner **Cost: \$18/adult; \$12/seniors & children; Free/5 and under**
- February 4 **Professor Paul Liptz** A Critical Analysis of Israel Today
- February 5 *Docent Tour at the Legion of Honor
- February 5 Saul Kaye Concert **Cost: \$10/advance, \$5/teens**
- February 10. **Book Club** The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay
- February 23 How the Tsars Saved Judaism
- February 6, 13, March 6 **Class A** Death and Mourning
- March 3, 10 & 17 **Class B** Death and Mourning
- March 29 **Book Club** America's Prophet
- April 28 **Book Club** Tough Jews
- June 16 **Book Club** Bread Givers

Don't delay. Send in your registration today!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Peninsula Temple Beth El

Dennis J. Eisner *Senior Rabbi* Karen Citrin *Rabbi/Educator* Micah Citrin *Rabbi/Educator*
 Elana Jagoda *Cantorial Soloist* Blair Brown *Chief Operating Officer*
 Cindi Serbin *Program/Communications Manager* Andi Bales *ECE Director* Lorna Siepser *President*