

Tree of Learning Calendar Highlights

Ben Zoma said: Who is wise? One who learns from all people, as it is said: 'From all those who taught me I gained understanding'

(Psalms 119:99) Pirkei Avot 4:1a

Temple Isaiah offers a variety of learning opportunities each year, designed to meet the needs and interests of adult learners of all backgrounds, ages and stages. They are sponsored by a variety of Temple Isaiah groups (and in some cases jointly with other area synagogues) under the umbrella of adult learning and are open to all.

Jewish learning is one of the pillars of Jewish tradition. You are encouraged to partake in our many offerings for adults whether you are just beginning to learn about Judaism (one of our most revered sages Rabbi Hillel did not embark on his studies until he was 40 years old) or you are looking to continue your growth as a lifelong learner.

Jewish study is not only a path for personal enrichment but also a way to strengthen your connections with other members of the Temple Isaiah Community.

Below is an overview of offerings listed alphabetically by host group. Please note that the dates and topics for some events have not yet been confirmed. Look for more detailed information, including registration instructions, in the monthly Bulletin, the weekly Temple email Digest, and by selecting the appropriate links from the "Adult Learning" page on the Temple Isaiah website (www.templeisiah.net). If you have questions or would like to discuss your learning interests further please contact Marilyn Stern, Director of Congregational Learning, at mstern@templeisiah.net.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Adult B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah is a two-year process. The first year involves participation in a Hebrew course through the Ivrit la-Kol collaborative plus six study sessions with our rabbis. The second year consists of regular study with the clergy team, including study of the liturgy of the service, Torah reading skills and trope, Torah study, and d'var Torah preparation. The current class will begin its second year this fall and will culminate their studies by leading a Shabbat service on June 23.

If you are interested in participating in the next cycle of the Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program (begin in fall 2013) or have questions about the program, please contact Rabbi Jill Perlman (rabbiperlman@templeisiah.net).

First Friday Torah Study Sponsored by Temple Isaiah Brotherhood

Each month, Rabbi Perlman leads a Torah Study group in a lively, participative discussion. This is open to anyone who wants to drop in — women and men. We do not read the "current" portion but are working our way through the Torah. There is no preparation. The discussions usually take place on the First Friday of each month at the Temple.

Sessions end before 8:30 a.m. Brotherhood provides bagels, cream cheese, and freshly brewed coffee for each session. Bring a Tanach (Hebrew Bible) or share; no RSVP needed, just come. It's a great way to start the month!

Dates (2011-2012) and Time: September 2, October 14, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3; 7:30 a.m.

Israel Action Committee

The Temple Isaiah Israel Action Committee will start an Israeli-themed book group this fall (after the holidays). Our first book will be James Carroll's work *Jerusalem Jerusalem* (in preparation for the author's Yom Shabbat visit to the Temple in November). For more information, contact the Israel Action Committee at israelaction@templeisaiah.net.

Ivrit la-Kol/Hebrew for All

Ivrit la-Kol Hebrew literacy and spoken language program for adults. In addition to the basic Learning to Read class, several levels of modern conversational, prayerbook, and Biblical Hebrew classes meet once weekly, in three seven-week sessions Ivrit la-Kol is a collaboration among Temple Isaiah, Temple Emunah, and the Beth El Temple Center of Belmont. For the program brochure please consult www.Templeisaiah.net. For additional information, please email Heidi at ivritlakolhebrew@gmail.com.

Dates: Fall 2011 Session: October 23 - December 10; Winter 2012 Session: January 8 - February 26; Spring 2012 session: March 4 - April 21

Lexington Institute for Jewish Studies

Is Religion Relevant? A Jewish Response

Throughout the ages man has questioned his role in the cosmos and his relationship to God. Where have we come from, where are we, and where are we going? This course, taught by Rabbi Gil Rosenthal, will explore the Jewish response to these questions while examining the four movements within Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist) and the particular insights of the outstanding scholars who led them. The cost is \$75. For more information, please contact Cheryl Forsythe 781-862-1308.

Dates and Time: Tuesday, October 18, Wednesdays, October 26, November 2, November 9, November 16, and November 30, 8:00 p.m.; kosher refreshments served 7:45 p.m.

Place: Temple Emunah, 9 Piper Rd, Lexington

The Lexington Institute for Jewish Studies (LIJS) is the fruit of a longstanding collaboration between the Adult Education committees of Temples Emunah and Isaiah.

LimmudBoston

Temple Isaiah is one of community sponsors of LimmudBoston, a day-long festival of Jewish learning and culture. Programs range from the arts to text study, from Jewish living to storytelling and dancing, and beyond. For more information, or to register, go to the website www.Limmudboston.org.

Date: Sunday, December 4, 2011

Place: Mishkan Tefila, Chestnut Hill

Me'ah

Me'ah is a two-year intensive adult Jewish learning program, sponsored by Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Commission on Jewish Continuity and Education. Students are immersed in reading core Jewish texts, grappling with concepts representing the historical, cultural and political movements from four eras biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern.

The next enrollment cycle for the Lexington Me'ah site will begin in spring 2012 for the 2012-2014 program. To learn about other Me'ah sites offered throughout the Boston area go to the website www.hebrewcollege.edu.

Midrasha Master Teachers Series

The Midrasha Master Teachers' Series is offered several times each year for adult learners who are Me'ah graduates or have an equivalent Jewish Studies background. The current offerings for 2011-2012 are:

Fall 2011 Series: The Book of Ecclesiastes (Kohelet)

Professor Marc Brettler will discuss Kohelet: its meaning, its structure, its radical theology and its relation to other biblical wisdom books such as Proverbs and Job.

Dates and Time: Thursdays, October 27, November 3, November 10, and, December 1, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Spring 2012 Series: An In-depth Exploration of Maimonides *Guide to the Perplexed*

Rabbi Meir Sender will speak on *The Guide to the Perplexed* which he describes as a diverse work that is both congenial and challenging to the modern Jewish learner.

Dates: Mondays, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26

For information, please contact Marilyn Stern, Director of Congregational Learning, at mstern@templeisaiah.net.

Parenting Through a Jewish Lens

This ten-week journey for parents of all backgrounds will explore core values (ikkarim) that can strengthen your family. Learn with expert instructors who understand your interests and concerns as parents, and who are adept at facilitating meaningful discussions. Meet and get to know other parents. Free on-site babysitting is available for all daytime classes. Pre-registration is required. Interfaith, GLBT, and single parents are welcome. To learn more about or to register, email Jodi Jarvis, Director of Early Childhood and Family Life, jjarvis@templeisaiah.net.

Dates (2011-2012) and Time: Sundays, October 23, November 6, November 20, December 4, January 8, January 29, February 5, March 4, March 11, March 18; 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Morning Minyan

Each Shabbat morning regulars and first-timers join together in the intimate setting of the chapel for our Minyan service. Led by Rabbi Perlman and many Isaiah members, the service includes the Shabbat morning liturgy, Torah reading, and thoughtful discussion about the weekly Torah portion.

Every Saturday morning, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Adult Learning

Please join fellow adult learners for occasional workshops and weekly series on Sunday mornings for learners of all backgrounds and interests. Next year Sunday morning learning will include:

Sunday morning Hebrew class (series sponsored by Ivrit LaKol)

Parenting Through A Jewish Lens

Temple Isaiah Brotherhood Breakfast Series

The Temple Isaiah Brotherhood sponsors a Sunday morning breakfast speaker series on a variety of topics. The bagel and lox breakfast is served at 9:15 a.m., with the presentation beginning around 10:00 a.m.

Registration: General admission is \$10, or free with Brotherhood membership.

Dates (2011-2012): Sundays, October 16, November 6, December 11, January 22, February 5, March 4, April 29, May 13

Temple Isaiah Sisterhood Wellness Series

The Temple Isaiah Sisterhood Wellness Series Committee plans and carries out a series of guest lectures at Temple Isaiah each winter on topics of health and wellness. The series is open to all members of the Temple, including men. Sessions begin with conversation and coffee at 7:00 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7:30 p.m. that ends at 9:00 p.m. The theme of the presentations topics for the 5772 series is "East Meets West." Specific dates for these speakers and selection of the third topic and speakers will be determined. For more information, contact Wellness Committee Chair Cynthia Piltch at capiltch@aol.com or 617-306-4854.

Wellness Series 2011 - 2012 Programs and Speakers:

Topic: "The Whys and Hows of Holistic Physical Therapy"

Speaker: Cynthia Rowe, PT

Topic: "Tapping to Health with the Emotional Freedom Technique"

Speakers: Caitlin Williams, MEd, LMHC and Stephen Joseph, MA, LMHC.

Temple Isaiah Sisterhood Thursday Classes with the Rabbis

Fall Classes: Psalms and Proverbs – 2/3 of the Wisdom Literature

These sessions with the rabbis, we will explore the history, context, and spiritual meaning that the Psalms and Proverbs continue to have for us after 3,000 years.

Dates and Time: Thursdays, October 27, November 3, November 10, November 17, December 1, December 8; 9:30 a.m.

Spring Classes: Reform Responsa – A Modern Jewish Approach to Important Questions of Our Lives

The Reform Responsa provides answers to questions about Reform Judaism and Jewish living. In these sessions with the rabbis, we will be touching on issues such as same-sex marriage, the celebration of non-Jewish holidays and the blowing of the Shofar on Shabbat. We will also look at additional topics in the Responsa based on the participants' interests.

Dates and Time: Thursdays, January 26, February 2, February 9, February 16, March 1, March 15, March 22, and March 29; 9:30 a.m.

Timelines in Jewish History, 1000 BCE to 1925 CE: from Canaan to a World-Wide Community

Temple Isaiah Member Dick Strauss created the timelines and is excited to share what he learned in the process. This series will examine how Jewish history from 1000 BCE to 1925 CE fits within the larger context of world political and religious history. In doing so, we will try to answer the fundamental question: how did we all get where we are today? This class is intended for everyone — those with or without previous study of Jewish history.

Dates and Time: Mondays, October 17, October 24, October 31;
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Class with Rabbi Jaffe

Fall Semester Topic: Challenges, Dilemmas and Ethical Questions: A Jewish Response

When is it acceptable — or even appropriate — to lie? As a seller or a marketer, what are the responsibilities for disclosure? If someone has a favorable misimpression of us, are we obligated to correct them? These and other matters of personal ethical responsibility will be explored in light of Jewish teaching, which has some very specific, and sometimes surprising, positions and instructions. Participants will be invited (time permitting) to present their own ethical dilemmas and challenges for exploration. Students are welcome. Come to all or any as each session will address a different ethical question. For more information, email Marilyn Stern, Director of Congregational Learning, at mstern@templeisaiah.net.

Dates and Time: Tuesdays, October 18, October 25, November 1, November 8, and November 15; 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Torah Team Ongoing Training to Maintain our Torah Scrolls

Our Torah Team is a group of Temple congregants volunteer to help maintain our Torah scrolls throughout the year. Following a brief on-the-job training session, members of the team will unroll and roll Torah scrolls and if needed, carefully brush and wipe clean the parchments. Those who have participated in this work describe it as spiritually moving and uplifting. If you are interested in maintaining our congregation's scrolls or if you have any questions, please email Heidi or Bruce Lynn at Torahrestoration@Templeisaiah.net

Yom Shabbat Programs

Yom Shabbat is a special opportunity to spend one Shabbat at the Temple exploring a specific Jewish theme. Yom Shabbat occasionally starts with Shabbat dinner preceding Friday night services, continuing with a Saturday afternoon program with speakers, a panel discussion, film, or some other form of presentation, and concluding with Havdalah. For additional information, please contact Fern Schaffer (781-861-1262; fernschaffer@rcn.com) or Star Zieve (781-863-0138; bobstar@rcn.com)

Schedule of 2011 – 2012 Programs

October 14 - 15 *An Article of Hope: Film, Discussion, Dessert*

November 11 - 12 *Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited Our Modern World*
Author James Carroll

January 27 - 28 *Startup Nation: Doing Business in the Hot Israeli Economy*

February 24 - 25	The Life and Times of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel Brandeis Professor Edward Kaplan
March 23 - 24	A Weekend of Music Singer/Songwriter Peri Smilow
April 20 - 21	The Journey of Our Kolin Torah
June 15 - 16	Jews and Jewish Food Author Joan Nathan
July	Jews in Rock and Roll