

Shimon the Righteous was one of the last of the men of the great assembly. He used to say: the world stands upon three things: Torah, worship, and acts of loving kindness.



Lifelong Learning
2022 - 2023



Dear TSE family,

This year 5783, we are excited to offer a plethora of Lifelong Learning opportunities that we hope our members will find both enriching and fulfilling. Session topics ranging from the sphere of the cultural to those with luminary scholars speaking to us on subjects in their field of expertise and more provide the chance for Jewish engagement on multiple levels.

Judaism transcends religion; it is, and can be for those who choose it, an all-encompassing world. To exercise one's Jewish mind, body, and soul is a powerful way to feel connected to Jewish life. At Shaari Emeth, we believe each Lifelong Learning opportunity is an invitation to strengthen our bonds together as one community and to plug into a world beyond ourselves.

For a Jewish community as rich and diverse as ours, we understand the essential need for accessibility. Our catalog for the year reflects this imperative through our wide range of topics and avenues for participation. Wherever possible, we offer the chance for people to join us online (either interactively on Zoom or via livestream, depending on the session) for those unable to come in person. Even at the times when our guests will appear virtually, we encourage all who are willing and able to attend in person to do so at TSE. Modern technology affords us the chance to connect with guest hosts from a distance away, but there is no need for us to be separate from one another if we can help it. Attending in person, even for virtual speakers, enlivens the experience for all participants, promotes a greater sense of community, and fosters the chance to continue the discussion even after the meeting ends. A fundamental sense of genuine belonging and connectedness most easily thrives in environments where peoples' likenesses don't instantly disappear after a click of the mouse. That being said, we are thrilled to be able to welcome people virtually when joining in person is not an option.

On behalf of the entire clergy team, we hope you will enjoy this year's options for continued learning as much as it is a pleasure for us to host and arrange them. Dive right in, and we look forward to seeing you there!

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi Jonathan Falco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Jonathan Falco
Assistant Rabbi

Shammai used to say: make your study of Torah a fixed practice; speak little, but do much; and receive all peoples with a pleasant countenance. (Pirkei Avot 1:15).

Sunday Series

Page 4

The Sunday Series is a monthly session covering a variety of topics covering cultural and historical topics of interest to the Jewish community.

Shabbat Speaker Series

Page 8

Join us for services four times a year on the fourth Friday night service of the months below to learn from our guest speakers. The knowledge they will share and the passion they bring will make for an exciting series of Shabbat teachings.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Learn Hebrew

Page 10

Begin your journey to be an Adult B'nai Mitzvah by expanding your ability to read and speak Hebrew, whether to keep up with your children or to prepare for an upcoming trip to Israel.

Learning with Clergy★Torah Study

Page 12

Learning with Clergy★Mini—Courses

Page 14

Jewish Interest Book Club

Page 15

Meet with Rabbi Panken to discuss these wonderful books and how they relate to our Jewish life, history, and culture

The Sunday Series is a monthly session covering a variety of topics covering cultural and historical topics of interest to the Jewish community. Classes are monthly on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 23

The Abraham Accords

Ambassador Dan Shapiro

In August 2020, a radical shift in the political landscape of the Middle East was formalized by the signing of the Abraham Accords – a peace agreement between Israel and a number of neighboring Arab states, including Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and the Republic of Sudan. Join Dan Shapiro who served as the US Ambassador to Israel from 2011-2017 for a current update and Q&A session on the status of Israel's warming relations with the Gulf states. (Ambassador Shapiro will be joining us via Zoom. Participants are encouraged to attend in person. Online access is also available).



Appointed by President Barack Obama, Daniel Shapiro served as the United States Ambassador to Israel from July 2011 until the end of the Obama Administration. As Ambassador, Shapiro won praise from leaders of both countries for his deft management of the U.S.-Israel relationship during Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, the Iran nuclear agreement, regional instability, and periods of significant bilateral tension and disagreement. Among Shapiro's major contributions were negotiating the \$38 billion Memorandum of Understanding for U.S. military aid to Israel, unprecedented public outreach in fluent Hebrew to Israel's diverse communities, and 40 percent growth in U.S.-Israel trade.

Shapiro's time as the Ambassador to Israel followed a diverse career of over 20 years in senior foreign policy and national security positions in the United States government, including as the Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council.

Currently, Shapiro is the Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Tel Aviv University's Institute of National Security Studies. His remarkable breadth of insights have been featured across the major media networks, and his writing has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, Israeli Channel 2, and more.

November 20

Israeli Dancing: A How-To & History-Of

Stacy Goto & Rabbi Falco

Israeli folk dance has become a cornerstone of Jewish gatherings, from summer camps to institution-wide conventions and more. Since the onset of modern Zionism, Israeli dancing has been an important cultural element to communal endeavors located both in the Land of Israel and the Diaspora. Join TSE member Stacy Goto for a crash-course in Israeli dance choreography of the most popular songs and empower yourself with access to this celebrated aspect of our tradition. No experience necessary. (In person only).



Stacy Goto is a lifelong dancer who danced with the Pennsylvania Ballet Company as a child, directed and choreographed for an Israeli folk dance troupe in college, taught ballroom dancing at a Fred Astaire Studio and taught country line dancing. She continues to teach privately and dances ballroom, Israeli folk dancing and country line dancing at various venues.

December 18 Jewish Extremism: Then & Now (everyone has their crazies...) Rabbi Jonathan Falco

Join Rabbi Falco for this exploration of Jewish extremism in both its past and current manifestations. From Meir Kahane and the Jewish Defense League (an FBI-labeled terrorist organization since 2001) to the modern-day “Lev Tahor,” (commonly referred to as the “Jewish Taliban” by Jewish, Israeli, and international press alike) come learn about the less savory history that is Jewish nationalism gone awry. (In person and online).

January 15 Jewish Genealogy Workshop Rabbi/genealogist Scott Kalmickoff

Workshop led by Rabbi Scott Kalmickoff, a genealogist & native Staten Islander who has spent the past 15 years exploring his roots, building his family tree and meeting relatives around the world. By walking you through the steps he took to conduct his personal genealogical research, Rabbi Scott will teach you the methodology of searching for records & documents, analyzing them & using the information they contain to build your family tree. The workshop gives you an overview of online Jewish genealogical resources so you can use them from the comfort of your home.

Rabbi Scott’s hope is to excite you about genealogy & empower you to conduct the research on your own. For Rabbi Scott, genealogy isn’t just a hobby or profession. Genealogy is a wonderful journey of personal exploration & self discovery. While learning about our ancestors we learn about ourselves. While learning about our history we connect with & deepen our Jewish identities. Jewish history & our families’ stories are our story & deeply influence who we are today in ways we may never fully comprehend. Genealogical research provides us with a precious gift we can pass to the next generation, L’Dor VaDor. (Rabbi Scott will be joining us in person for this event. Online access will also be available).

Rabbi Scott Kalmickoff was born & raised in Staten Island, NY. He grew up in a two family home where he lived with his parents, younger brother & maternal grandparents. Growing up, Scott had a particularly close relationship with his grandparents who shared many stories with him about their lives, relatives & family history. These family stories inspired a curiosity within Scott who wanted to learn more about his family tree.



Scott began his genealogical research sixteen years ago at the young age of fifteen. Since then, he has traced parts of his family tree as far back as the 1600s & discovered roots in Belarus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania & Wales. Scott has traveled across the globe, visiting the towns his ancestors emigrated from & meeting distant relatives.

Rabbi Scott received a BA in Jewish Studies with a concentration in Jewish History from Yeshiva University. He was a recipient of the university’s Altshul, Pearlman Memorial Award for Highest Ranks in all Jewish Studies. Following graduation from Yeshiva University, Scott began his studies at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School & was ordained in June 2018. Scott is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York & currently resides on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

February 19

**Using Lessons From the Past to Understand
the Future of American Jews**

Eric Goldstein, Ph.D.

Description: American Judaism is a category of its own accord. Our history as American Jews is unique and shaped by societal forces previously unknown to our ancestors prior to their arrival on American shores. Living as a Jew in a multicultural society as free and diverse as the US is a process both ongoing and vibrant, but what are the lessons we've learned along the way? And what might the implications be for the future of American Jews? Join Emory University professor Eric Goldstein, Ph.D. in his expert analysis on this topic with us. (Eric Goldstein, Ph.D. will be joining us via Zoom. Participants are encouraged to attend in person. Online access is also available.)



Eric L. Goldstein, Associate Professor (B.A., Emory University, 1992; M.A., University of Michigan, 1994; Ph.D., 2000); joint appointment in the Department of History and Institute for Jewish Studies. American Jewish history and culture, modern Jewish history, American social and cultural history (nineteenth and twentieth centuries). Author of *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity* (Princeton, 2006). Articles include, "Different Blood Flows in Our Veins': Race and Jewish Self-Definition in Late Nineteenth Century America," *American Jewish History* (1997). Dissertation: "Race and the Construction of Jewish Identity in America, 1875-1945."

March 19

It's Good to be Mel Brooks

FilmShul

As a comic, writer, actor and director, Mel Brooks embodies the essence of Jewish comedy. His beginnings as a Borscht Belt comic in the 40s, a writer on television's seminal *Your Show of Shows* in the 50s and the co-creator of TV's *Get Smart* and improvisational 2000 Year Old Man recordings in the Sixties served as the ultimate warm-up for a motion picture career that includes such landmark films as *The Producers*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein* and others that he wrote, directed and starred in. It didn't come as a surprise that he later launched a Tony-winning Broadway career at the age of 76. As Mel has said, "It's good to be the king!"—and it's even better to celebrate King Mel's life and career. (Presented by Filmshul via Zoom. Participants are encouraged to attend in person. Online access will also be available).

FilmShul is an informative, engaging and fun presentation on Hollywood and the Jewish American Experience,



curated by noted film historians Irv Slifkin and Laurence Lerman and specifically designed for Zoom interactivity.

FilmShul is all about movies, movies, movies! You know what movies we're talking about--the funny ones like *The Producers* and *Broadway Danny Rose*; the romances like *Crossing Delancey* and *Goodbye, Columbus*; the musicals like *Funny Girl*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Cabaret*; the classic dramas like *The Pawnbroker*, *Crossfire* and *Gentleman's Agreement*. And so many, many more, from 1927's *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson all the way up to last year's *An American Pickle* with Seth Rogen.

FilmShul also focuses on the history and role of Jews in the entertainment industries, which they have been

involved with since the earliest days. The Jewish people were trailblazers in all mediums--vaudeville, theater, radio, movies and television--and their stamp has remained indelible throughout the decades.

The role of FilmShul is to reflect on and relate to the American Jewish experience so audiences will be informed and entertained, and recognize the valuable contributions made by entertainment innovators of the Jewish faith.

April 16

Script with the Scribe

Linda Coppleson

Expressions of Jewish tradition span the gamut. From ritual to prayer and from art to Judaica, the products of our tradition reach deep into the lives and souls of our people. Perhaps one of the most recognizable of these expressions is the scribal penmanship of a sofer/soferet. The special script comprising the letters of every Torah Scroll is precious, but that doesn't mean it should be distant. At TSE in 5783, it doesn't have to be! Join Soferet (Hebrew Scribe) Linda Coppleson and learn how to form the Hebrew letters in the style of Torah script and create your own artwork to take home. (In person only).



As part of a small, international community of women scribes, Linda completed the writing of the first sefer Torah commissioned entirely for sofrot. Her participation in the Women's Torah Project afforded her the honor of writing twenty of the sixty-two four column pages which comprise every Torah, including the entire book of Numbers, the last two parshiot of the Torah (Ha'azinu and V'zot haBracha) as well as several columns in the book of Leviticus. Upon

completion, she traveled to Seattle, WA, where the Torah now resides, for the sewing together and dedication of the scroll. As a result of this commission she is recognized as a Soferet STaM, qualified to write Torah scrolls, tefillin and mezuzot.

May 21

Jewish Craftsmanship: Building Sacred Spaces

Rabbi Jonathan Falco

When conjuring in one's mind a stereotypically "Jewish profession," the image is often far from that of a Jew with a hammer in one hand and locally sourced wood in the other. However, throughout the ages, this very depiction emblemized Jewish professional and communal life as Jews worked to build the spaces they needed for public worship and religious gathering. The marriage of Jewish woodworking and architectural competency combine to produce the beautiful structures in which our foreparents of generations past would commonly dwell. Join Rabbi Falco as he guides our way through the history of Jewish craftsmanship and its evolution into the modern synagogue styles we recognize today. (In person and online)

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January 27

ARZA: A Night with Rabbi Josh Weinberg

Rabbi Josh Weinberg of the American Reform Zionist Association will join us this Shabbat to discuss his Israel Engagement work on behalf of the Reform movement. Stay afterward for an oneg Q&A session featuring Rabbi Weinberg. Sponsored by The Shelley and Marc Willner Hineni Fund/Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Rabbi Josh Weinberg serves as the Vice President of the URJ for Israel and Reform Zionism and is the Executive Director of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem, and is currently living in New York. Josh previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, has hiked the Israel-trail, and came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003.



Originally from Chicago, he has a B.A. from University of Wisconsin in Hebrew Literature, Political Science and International Relations, and an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jewish Education. Josh has taught and lectured widely throughout Israel, the U.S. and Europe, as well as on Kivunim and Shnat Netzer gap-year programs. He has led numerous tours and trained tour educators for the Reform movement's Israel experiences. In addition to being a STorahtelling "Mayven," Josh has a passion for the environment and spends lots of time outdoors hiking and climbing, playing music and volleyball. Josh is passionate about anything connected to Israel and hopes to strengthen the connection between the Reform movement and the Jewish State. He is married to Mara Sheftel Getz, and is the proud abba of Noa, Ella, Mia, and Alma.

February 24

The Environment and Us

Jenine Tankoos

TSE member Jenine Tankoos has dedicated her career and spare time to improving and protecting a gift most often forgotten: that is, our environment. As Jews, we are obligated to be good stewards of nature and not to abuse the very place that makes our existence possible. As Tu B'Shvat falls in February, join TSE on this last Friday night in February as Jenine shares with us her compelling call for environmental awareness, as well as simple ways for us to take part in the greater task of protecting our environment.



Jenine Tankoos (a.k.a. "Green Jenine") is Chair of the Manalapan Township Environmental Commission. She is the co-author of "Let's Go Green Together" which she wrote and photographed with one of her sons. Their book empowers kids to "Go Green" and inspires people of all ages to take simple actions to care for the Earth. Jenine has been working and volunteering in the field of environmental protection for over 30 years. During her tenure at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Jenine gained valuable knowledge about a wide range of environmental issues. A highlight of her volunteer activities was her position as a docent at the Bronx Zoo where she taught about wildlife and conservation. Jenine received a B.A. from Barnard College of Columbia University and a Masters in Ecology from Fordham University.

April 28, 2023

Welcoming vs Belonging: *Including Jews of Color in our Sacred Community*

Kelly Whitehead, 4th year Rabbinical Student HUC-NY

Learn from Rabbinical Student and queer Jew of Color Kelly Whitehead on how Jewish communities can be more supportive and inclusive of all its members. They will share their own experiences growing up and working in the Reform movement in combination with teachings from the Jewish tradition.



Kelly Whitehead (she/they) is a 4th year rabbinical student and Jewish Nonprofit Management MA student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Kelly participated in the Reform Movement's JewV'Nation Jews of Color Fellowship, where they learned to create and facilitate Anti-Racial Bias training for Jewish Professionals. They serve on the board of T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and was selected as one of The Jewish Week's 36 under 36 for 2021.

June 23, 2023

Pride Shabbat

Rakhel Silverman (from Keshet)

Audacious hospitality and radical welcoming are hallmarks of today's Reform Movement. In honor of Pride Month, Rakhel Silverman from Keshet, an organization dedicated to achieving full equality for LGBTQ Jews and their families, will join us to speak about what is important for Jewish communities to know about being a trans Jew and ways to promote inclusivity throughout our own.

Rakhel (pronounced [ruh-hel](#)) is a proud fat trans Disabled Jew who is passionate about social justice and radical inclusion.



Rakhel double majored in Religious Studies and Sociology at Bryn Mawr College. While there, they worked for several nonprofits. They were trained in community organizing through the Religious Action Center's Machon Kaplan fellowship in DC, where they interned at the Center for Responsible Lending and advocated for people of color, women, and low-income borrowers. They then served as an Advocacy intern and then Associate at Keshet, where they mobilized the Jewish community to defend transgender rights in Massachusetts. Rakhel also acted as a field organizer for IfNotNow, where they supported chapter development. Upon graduating, Rakhel served in the Avodah Jewish Service Corps in DC, working as a Community Organizer and Program Assistant at Jews United for Justice (JUFJ). At JUFJ, they worked on local racial and economic justice campaigns and supported leadership development. Rakhel has also served on the Board of Directors and acted as National Organizer of Judaism On Our Own Terms (JOOOT), where they supported the creation of radically inclusive campus communities. They were most recently a Chapter Engagement Coordinator for PFLAG National, where they supported PFLAG chapters in the Western region. Rakhel has written about their experiences and identities for several publications, including Medium, MyJewishLearning, the Jewish Women's Archives, and HeyAlma. Rakhel lives with their partner, Sy, and their perfect Jewish cat, Babka.

These are things that are limitless,
of which a person enjoys the fruit of the world,
while the principal remains in the world to come.
They are: honoring one's father and mother,
engaging in deeds of compassion,
arriving early for study morning and evening,
dealing graciously with guesses, visiting the sick,
providing for the wedding couple,
accompanying the dead for burial,
being devoted in prayer,

Interested in becoming an Adult B'nai Mitzvah?

If you are interested in become an Adult B'nai Mitzvah, sign up for this information session when registering for the Hebrew class. It is never too late! The class requires a two year commitment. Year one begins with mastering Hebrew by taking the Adult Hebrew Class this year and it continues next year with study led by the Cantor and Rabbis who will help to deepen your understanding of prayer, Torah and Judaism. The second part of the year will focus on preparing to lead B'nai Mitzvah Service. The meeting will be offered in person and on Zoom. If you are unable to join us that day, please reach out to Rabbi Falco to set up a time to discuss.



ADULT CLASS
**LEARN
HEBREW**
TAUGHT BY MARILYN BEUTEL

Tuesdays: 7:00P to 8:00P

1st Semester: November 1st to February 28th

2nd Semester: March 7th to June 27th

Register now:

<https://bit.ly/TSEHebrew>

Temple Members \$180 per semester
Non-Members \$250 per semester



Learn Hebrew

Have you ever been interested in learning to read Shabbat prayers? Have you wanted to help your child prepare for his/her b'nai mitzvah? Have you missed out on your own bar/bat mitzvah service? Or are you just intrigued about learning something new with other interested adults?

If so, this year Shaari Emeth is offering our Adult Hebrew Class for Beginners! We will start the year with learning the Aleph Bet and continue with the study of the Shabbat prayers. It will be instructed by TSE member Marilyn Beutel, an experienced Hebrew and Judaic studies educator.

Classes will begin on November 1st 7:00pm -8:00pm and continue on Tuesday nights throughout the school year. Ready to tackle what your children have been studying for years? **Sign up and join us!**

Marilyn Beutel has over 30 years teaching experience and a Masters in Education. Her tenure has been both as administrator and educator. For over 15 years Marilyn was the Hebrew / Judaic teacher and Bar Mitzvah tutor at TRT. Her passion has always been educating students of all ages . Marilyn finds it particularly exciting when working with adults to tackle new and challenging material. She is currently a member of TSE, residing in Marlboro. Her twin daughters, Allie and Jenny , recently graduated college, and are her true pride and joy.

Torah on Tap w/Rabbi Falco

Meet at Court Jester, Freehold on November 9, 2022 at 6:30pm

Sit back with a brew and appetizers and join Rabbi Falco on November 9th at 6:30pm to chat about all the latest in the Jewish world at the Court Jester in Freehold! Ages 21-30 are welcome to attend. Future gathering dates and locations will be determined in concert with participants' availability.

Saturday Torah Study w/Rabbi Falco

Saturdays at 9am in TSE Moadon, followed by minyan at 10am

A lively discussion and thoughtful study of the weekly Torah portion. Guided by discussion questions rooted in the text, our dialogues veer into realms ranging from the ethical/philosophical to the legal and much more. Grounded in Torah, there's no limit to the subjects we cover! Torah study led by Rabbi Falco begins at 9am followed by Shabbat minyan at 10am led by community members and R. Falco on a rotating basis. Stay for one or the other, or come for both! Each session occurs in person and participants are welcome to join either one or both by Zoom. No Hebrew or prior knowledge is necessary to attend. All are welcome to join.

Wednesday Torah Study with Rabbi Panken

Wednesdays at 11am in the TSE Moadon

Rabbi Panken continues word by word, line by line through the Book of Deuteronomy in a close reading of the text. No Hebrew or prior knowledge is necessary, just a desire to discuss Torah with a nice group of people sharing ideas and a cup of coffee. Participants may join by Zoom or in person. All are welcome.

Mini-courses with our clergy

Rabbi Panken: A Taste of Mussar: Finding the Curriculum of Your Soul

Tuesdays January 24th to February 14th 8:15pm

Rabbi Panken will lead A Taste of Mussar, a 4-session independent learning course developed by Dr. Alan Morinis, founder of The Mussar Institute. The course introduces you to the experience of Mussar. There are no prerequisites; only English is required.

Rabbi Panken will guide students on an exploration of the anatomy of the soul, your personal soul curriculum, how to use that curriculum as the basis for personal growth, and how Mussar provides guidance. You'll explore some of the middot, or traits of the soul.

Mussar is a treasured body of teachings and practices that provides distinctively Jewish answers to the questions we all ask about life. Mussar also guides you in identifying your unique, personal path of spiritual growth and offers practices to assist you on your journey.

Cantor Wally: Cantillation Jubilation (*Ta'amei haMikrah*)

Wednesdays February 8th to March 8 7:00pm

Interested in learning how to chant from the Torah? Join Cantor Wally as he guides us through the cantillation trope – the *Ta'amei haMikrah* – *and learn the language of Torah melody. Knowledge of Torah trope enables a person to teach oneself how to chant any particular passage found throughout the Five Books of Moses.*

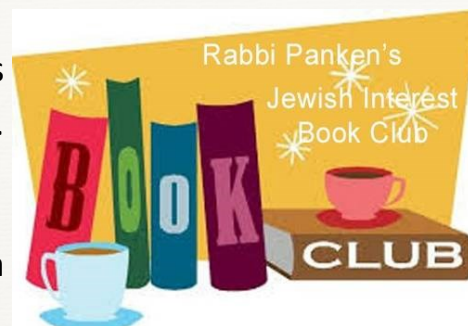
Rabbi Falco: The Theory of Great Jewish Leaders

Wednesdays April 19th to May 24th 7:00pm

The “Great man theory” of the 19th century champions an approach to the study of history in which the unfolding of events through time can be explained by individuals of a “great” nature, often by virtue of their character, abilities, or influence manifesting in historical effect. Through the lens of Jewish history, the thrust of our people might also be explained by our prodigious leaders of the past. The famous expression, “from Moses (Rabbeinu) to Moses (Maimonides), there is no one like Moses (Mendelssohn)” encapsulates this very notion, albeit limited to a name. Join Rabbi Falco on this journey through Jewish history powered by the greatest leaders of our people, from biblical times up to the modern day. Participants will have the opportunity to drive parts of the curriculum by requesting and/or voting on particular leaders on which to focus our study as we move through the ages to today.

Meet with Rabbi Panken to discuss these wonderful books and how they relate to our Jewish life, history, and culture.

Meets at 7:00pm, In –person and Zoom

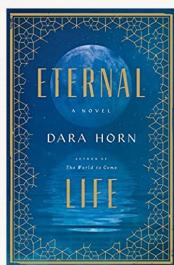


November 30, 2022: Growing Up Below Sea Level by Rachel Biale



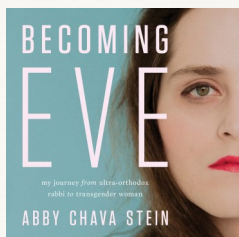
This beautifully written memoir is composed of linked stories about growing up on a kibbutz in Israel in the 1950s and 60s, when children spent most of their time, from birth on, in a Children's House. This memoir starts with a Prologue drawn from the diaries of Rachel Biale's mother and the letters her parents exchanged while her father served in the British army. With excerpts from these documents, she describes how the long trials and tribulations that encompassed her parents' dangerous escape from Eastern Europe to Israel – fleeing from the Nazis from Prague in 1939, five years of dangerous sea voyages, and long internments in British refugee camps. Throughout these ordeals, her parents' socialist and Zionist values sustained them and eventually brought them to their kibbutz. The middle and main section of the memoir is devoted to Rachel's growing up as a kibbutz child. While Rachel's parents soon realized that no community can live up to its utopian ideals, Rachel's youth on kibbutz was a robust and buoyant one. Rachel pens 24 beautifully written and engaging stories about her kibbutz childhood -- from earliest memories at age three as part of a children's society, to her army service at age twenty. The stories focus on the world of children, but also offer a window into the lives of the adult kibbutz members, including Holocaust survivors. The book ends with a Postscript—as Rachel revisits her kibbutz and updates the stories of her childhood companions.

January 25, 2023: Eternal Life by Dara Horn



What would it really mean to live forever?

Rachel's current troubles—a middle-aged son mining digital currency in her basement, a scientist granddaughter trying to peek into her genes—are only the latest in a litany spanning dozens of countries, scores of marriages, hundreds of children, and 2,000 years, going back to Roman-occupied Jerusalem. Only one person shares her immortality: an illicit lover who pursues her through the ages. But when her children develop technologies that could change her fate, Rachel must find a way out. From ancient religion to the scientific frontier, Dara Horn pits our efforts to make life last against the deeper challenge of making life worth living.

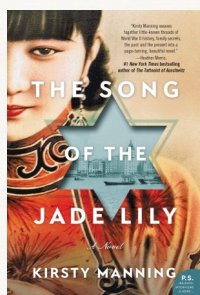


March 29, 2023: Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman By Abby Stein

Abby Stein was raised in a Hasidic Jewish community in Brooklyn, isolated in a culture that lives according to the laws and practices of 18th century Eastern Europe, speaking only Yiddish and Hebrew and shunning modern life. Stein was born as the first son in a dynastic rabbinical family, poised to become a leader of the next generation of Hasidic Jews.

But Abby felt certain at a young age that she was a girl. She suppressed her desire for a new body while looking for answers wherever she could find them, from forbidden religious texts to smuggled secular examinations of faith. Finally, she orchestrated a personal exodus from ultra-Orthodox manhood to mainstream femininity - a radical choice that forced her to leave her home, her family, her way of life.

Powerful in the truths it reveals about biology, culture, faith, and identity, *Becoming Eve* poses the enduring question: How far will you go to become the person you were meant to be?



May 31, 2023: The Song of the Jade Lily by Kristy Manning

A gripping historical novel that tells the little-known story of Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai during WWII. 1939: Two young girls meet in Shanghai, also known as the “Paris of the East”. Beautiful local Li and Jewish refugee Romy form a fierce friendship, but the deepening shadows of World War II fall over the women as they slip between the city's glamorous French Concession district and the teeming streets of the Shanghai Ghetto. Yet soon the realities of war prove to be too much for these close friends as they are torn apart.

2016: Fleeing London with a broken heart, Alexandra returns to Australia to be with her grandparents, Romy and Wilhelm. Her grandfather is dying, and over the coming weeks Romy and Wilhelm begin to reveal the family mysteries they have kept secret for more than half a century. As fragments of her mother's history finally become clear, Alexandra struggles with what she learns while more is also revealed about her grandmother's own past in Shanghai. After Wilhelm dies, Alexandra flies to Shanghai, determined to trace her grandparents' past. Peeling back the layers of their hidden lives, she is forced to question what she knows about her family—and herself.

The Song of the Jade Lily is a lush, provocative, and beautiful story of friendship, motherhood, the price of love, and the power of hardship and courage that can shape us all.



*The Torah is a tree of
life to those who cling to
it, and all those who
uphold it are happy.
(Proverbs 3:18).*



**400 Craig Road
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