



Bob Rovinsky,
President
Rachel B. Miller,
Executive Director

Jewish Study Center

January 10 to March 10, 2005

Indulge yourself
in the fruit of knowledge...



Ripe this season



Basic Judaism
Beyond the Basics
Introduction to Kabbalah



Feng Shui & Judaism
Jews & American Politics
Islam & Judaism



Israeli Cooking
Maps & Their Influence
Eco-Judaism

The best of the tradition in an informal setting...

The Jewish Study Center is an independent non-profit center for adult Jewish education in the Washington, D.C., area. Founded in 1978, it has a reputation for teaching and learning in an open, participatory environment. Engage with traditional texts and topics, contemporary Jewish culture and concerns, and faculty from across the community. We welcome teachers and students of all backgrounds.

**Please register at jewishsc@starpower.net
or call 202.248.8810**

**JANUARY 10 TO
MARCH 7
(8 CLASSES)
8:30 TO 9:45 PM
MEMBERS: \$85
NON-MEMBERS: \$95**

Basic Judaism

This course is designed for everyone—Jew or non-Jew, secular or religious—who wants to learn about core Jewish beliefs, customs, and practices. It uses basic Jewish texts to explore what Jews study, how they observe Judaism in their homes, and what prayer and community mean to them. Field trips will present opportunities to experience Judaism directly and get to know a range of synagogues and other resources in the local Jewish community. At the end of the course, students will understand what it means to live a Jewish life and what the next steps are to go deeper into what can become a lifetime of Jewish study.

Bob Rovinsky, president of the Jewish Study Center, belongs to many of the Jewish communities of Washington, from Adas Israel to the Zoo Minyan. He has taught numerous courses, including Basic Judaism, for the JSC.

**JANUARY 10; 24
(2 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$25
NON-MEMBERS: \$35**

Feng Shui and Judaism

The prayer Ma Tovu emphasizes the importance of pleasant environments: “How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel.” This principle is a backbone of Feng Shui, the ancient Chinese system for creating a harmonious atmosphere in homes and businesses. In this class, you learn the relationship between Judaism and Feng Shui and gain the tools you need to practice Feng Shui. By creating balance and harmony in your home, you can enhance your health, happiness, and prosperity. Feng Shui believes that your environment displays your consciousness. Come see how Judaism agrees.

Lynne Greene is founder of Feng Shui Eyes and studied at the Western School of Feng Shui in San Diego. Lynne is a member of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church.

**JANUARY 10 TO
MARCH 7
(8 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$85
NON-MEMBERS: \$95**

Beyond the Basics

Beyond the Basics explores ways in which people with a grasp of the fundamentals of Judaism can enrich their Jewish life, both through individual acts and by drawing on community resources. The course focuses on enhancing basic observances (such as Shabbat and prayer), finding English language resources for regular study (such as weekly Torah readings), and discovering ways to relate Judaism to everyday life. Participants will be asked to take a turn at preparing a short presentation to serve as the starting point for each week's discussion.

Tom Diaz is a lawyer. His most recent course was Basic Judaism for the Jewish Study Center in Fall 2004.

**JANUARY 10, 24, 31;
FEBRUARY 7
(4 SESSIONS)
8:30 TO 9:45 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55**

A Jewish Approach to Leadership

Many of us can list heroes from the bible, but can we identify what specifically makes them leaders? In this class, we look at biblical texts and rabbinical sources to reveal Jewish leadership values. We focus on the lives of Abraham, David and Bathsheba, Deborah, Noah, and Samuel.

Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld is a rabbi at Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah.



Parking. Limited parking at adjacent WDCJCC lot, for charge. Validate tickets at front desk. Also: Colonial parking lot, 1616 P Street (two blocks from JCC), \$5.00.



Shuttle Bus Service (from the Metro). The free WDCJCC shuttle service (a white van) runs between the Dupont Circle Metro Station's north exit and the WDCJCC every 15 minutes.

**JANUARY 11 TO
FEBRUARY 15
(6 CLASSES)
6:45 TO 8:00 PM
MEMBERS: \$65
NON-MEMBERS: \$75**

Jewish Identity in France

This course reviews the history of French Jews from 1880 to the present and emphasizes the situation of *les juifs*, the East European immigrants. Why did they come to France? What did they find? How were relations between *les juifs* and *les israelites* (the native-born Jews)? We also explore the fate of French Jews during World War II and the Nazi Occupation. The course concludes with a look at contemporary politics of Jewish identity in France.



Ken Donow is a sociologist. He is currently writing a book about Jewish immigrant life in Paris during the Third Republic. He last taught this class in Spring 2004.

This class is co-sponsored with the Alliance Francaise.

**JANUARY 11, 18, 25;
FEBRUARY 1
(4 CLASSES)
8:15 TO 9:30 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55**

Jewish Connections with the Outside World

In this four-part series, you learn about the connections between Judaism and the metaphysical world and the religions of Hinduism and Buddhism. The first two classes examine classical Jewish texts in which ghosts, necromancy, and astronomy are mentioned (i.e. the Torah, Talmud, Mishnah, and Kabbalah, all in translation), and will follow up with a discussion of the Jewish approach to such metaphysical concepts. The last two classes will briefly discuss the fundamentals of Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism and look at historical as well as spiritual evidence of the connections between the religions.



Rabbi Alexander Seinfeld is the executive director of Jewish Spiritual Literacy, Inc. Rabbi Seinfeld co-founded Aish HaTorah in San Francisco and is now a writer and international speaker.



Limited street parking is available. For directions, visit www.sixthandi.org/ReachingUs.htm



Support the JSC by



- sponsoring a class in honor of a person or occasion, or for a special topic
- becoming a member (see page 6)
- donating to the general Study Center fund
- donating through United Way (our CFC number is 8366)

Donations to the Study Center, a tax-exempt non-profit, enable us to meet administrative expenses, provide scholarships, and—more importantly—support the Jewish community of Washington, D.C.

For more information:
Call Director Rachel Miller, at 202.332.1221

FEBRUARY 1 TO 22
(4 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55

Venus and Mars—and Torah

Are men and women inherently different? How? And why? We'll study and discuss the physical, psychological, spiritual, and political dimensions of gender differences. Jewish and secular texts are used, such as *Kosher Sex* and the John Gray's *Mars and Venus* series.

Sharon Kass is a Washington-area native and culture vulture who enjoys writing songs and taking long walks—sometimes at the same time.

FEBRUARY 15, 22;
MARCH 1
6:45 TO 8:30 PM
INDIVIDUAL CLASS
MEMBERS: \$25
NON-MEMBERS \$30
ALL THREE CLASSES
MEMBERS: \$65
NON-MEMBERS: \$75

The Taste of Israel

In this three-part hands-on cooking class, connect with Israel through your taste buds. Israeli cuisine is as diverse as the Diaspora, thanks to many migrations. We explore the recipes of Israeli immigrants and locals with uncomplicated meat and vegetarian dishes that use few ingredients.

Come hungry!

February 15: Diaspora Barbeque—meat and veggie dishes from Yemen and Morocco

February 22: East to West—Mediterranean and Indian veggie dishes

March 1: Biblical to Modern Israel—dishes using Israeli produce, such as pomegranates and olives



Louise Fisher is a professional chef who teaches at Hadassah Culinary in Jerusalem and in the U.S.A.

This class is co-sponsored by the Birthright Israel Alumni Association, a group that encourages participants in Birthright Israel (a free 10-day trip to Israel for young adults ages 18 to 26) to stay involved and connected to Israel and Judaism. All Birthright Israel Alumni can pay the member fee for this class.

We want to hear from you.

Visit www.jewishstudycenter.org for information on other semesters and events and to make suggestions for future classes. If you have a subject in mind you'd like to learn or teach, let us know at jewishsc@starpower.net, and we'll try to make it happen.

**JANUARY 19, 26;
FEBRUARY 2, 9
(4 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55**

The Return of the Hidden Sephardic Jews

Five centuries after their ancestors were forced to ostensibly “convert” to Catholicism under the Inquisition, and became *conversos* and *anousim* (“forced converts,” formerly called *marranos*), hundreds of contemporary *b’nai anousim* (their descendants) have returned to Judaism, reclaiming an often semi-forgotten part of their family heritage. Some have done so through conversion, others through a spiritual return. This course reviews the historical background; explains typical *b’nai anousim* traits, habits, and practices (including distinctive prayers); and describes in detail today’s *b’nai anousim* communities in Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Israel, Mexico, the Southwest U.S.A., and elsewhere.

This class is co-taught by Dione Pereira, an educator from Brazil and a descendant of anousim, and her husband Bob Feron, who has worked with contemporary b’nai anousim communities for several years and has researched the history. Dione and Bob have been affiliated with Kulanu, Tifereth Israel, and Adas Israel in recent years

**JANUARY 12 TO
FEBRUARY 16
(6 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$65
NON-MEMBERS: \$75**

Introduction to Kabbalah

Studying Kabbalah is considered to be studying the soul of the Torah. This class introduces the basic concepts of Kabbalah: the Sefirot, creation, the source of evil, and the Shekhinah. We read and discuss translations of texts from the Zohar and other Kabbalistic writings. The new book *Ehyeh: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow*, by Rabbi Arthur Green, helps us understand how Kabbalah continues to have meaning and importance for us today.

Howard White attends services at Tifereth Israel, the Zoo Minyan, and the Silver Spring Egalitarian Minyan. He is addicted to the Jewish Study Center and studies there when he is not teaching. This past fall, he taught Introduction to Prayer.

**JANUARY 12 TO
FEBRUARY 9
(5 CLASSES)
8:30 TO 9:45 PM
MEMBERS: \$55
NON-MEMBERS: \$65**

Rabbi Akiva

“Matters that were not revealed to Moses were revealed to Rabbi Akiva and his colleagues.” Rabbi Akiva is a central figure in the creation of Judaism and the development of the oral Torah. He lived in the late 1st and early 2nd centuries CE in the critical years after the destruction of the Temple. We will read selections from the Talmud about his life and legend, his extreme devotion to Torah (perhaps at the expense of his family), his hope and expectations of the messiah, and ultimately his martyrdom. We will also discuss his approach to Torah and halacha (Jewish law).

Norman Shore is a veteran teacher for the Jewish Study Center and elsewhere in the Washington Jewish community.

**JANUARY 26;
FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16
(4 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55**

Jews and American Politics: Election 2004 and Beyond

The Jewish vote: Does it remain a pillar of the Democratic party or is it becoming a part of an emerging Republican coalition? As the Jewish community shrinks as a percentage of the American population, what is its role in the political process? To motivate Jewish donors and to move Jewish votes, must a candidate concentrate on the issue of Israel, or are there other issues that drive Jewish political behavior? In four sessions, we explore these questions and others.

Ira Forman is the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

**JANUARY 26;
FEBRUARY 2, 9
(3 CLASSES)
8:30 TO 9:45 PM
MEMBERS: \$35
NON-MEMBERS: \$45**

It's Not Easy Being Green—and Jewish

Classical Jewish sources have much to say about how people should relate to the rest of Creation. In our era of environmental crisis, these sources are relevant like never before. Join us to explore these texts and values, along with some of their implications for policy, society, and our own life choices.

This class will be co-taught by Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda and Hadar Susskind, the Washington representative for the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL). Rabbi Dobb is on the board of COEJL.

Co-sponsored with Shomrei Adamah of Greater Washington

**FEBRUARY 16 TO
MARCH 9
(4 CLASSES)
8:30 TO 9:45 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55**

Savoring the Psalms

The one hundred fifty strange and passionate religious poems that make up the Book of Psalms are an enticing invitation as well as a challenge to the casual reader. The psalmist's voice addressing G-d is emotional and immediate; the ideas and the language are difficult, literary, and complex. In this class, we approach a handful of psalms to read, untangle, and savor. We spend some time on psalms central to literary and liturgical tradition (the 23rd, the 92nd) and choose others based on class preferences. We will compare various translations and look at the Hebrew to a limited degree, depending on the preferences and fluency of class members.

Amy Schwartz, a Washington journalist, has taught many Study Center courses on poetry.

**FEBRUARY 23;
MARCH 2, 9
(3 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$35
NON-MEMBERS: \$45**

Islam and Judaism

Islam and Judaism have many points of similarity that are underappreciated in the context of increasingly strained international affairs. Is there a future for Jewish-Islamic religious relations despite political tensions? Professor Nyang will identify and discuss points of convergence and divergence between the two traditions in light of human history.

Dr. Sulayman Nyang teaches African Studies at Howard University and writes on religion and politics in Africa. Several of his books include Islam, Christianity, and African Identity and Islam and the United States.



Become a Member of the Jewish Study Center

For \$36/year for individuals (\$72/year for families), you can become a member of the Jewish Study Center and pay discounted rates for all Study Center classes and events.

Thursday at Ohr Kodesh, 8300 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase

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For directions, view www.ohrkodesh.org ("How to find Us"). There's a "Ride On" Metrobus from the Friendship Heights and Silver Spring Metro stations.

FEBRUARY 17, 24
(2 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$25,
NON-MEMBERS: \$35

Maps, Mapmakers, and Their Influence on the Jewish World

How do maps affect our view of the world? In this class, we analyze how maps themselves have changed over the past two hundred years and how mapmakers have influenced our world view, specifically regarding the Middle East and the Jewish world. We briefly study the process of map making and its effect on Christian and Jewish religious philosophy. Finally, we look at the evolution of the map of the present day Middle East and how the products influence current conflicts.

Jim Churgin is a former director of the World Data Center—A for Oceanography, and was also the past international president of Parents of North American Israelis (PNAI).

JANUARY 27;
FEBRUARY 10, 24;
MARCH 10
(4 CLASSES)
7:00 TO 8:15 PM
MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$55

Parashat ha'Shavuah (Portion of the Week)

The class discusses, with classic and contemporary commentaries, the weekly Torah portion, and, on occasion, the Haftorah as well. Special emphasis will be placed on recent women's commentary.

Rabbi Ben Mintz, ordained at Yeshiva University, is a professor of Law at Catholic University and 1997 recipient of the Foundation for Jewish Studies Master Teacher award. A veteran Study Center teacher, he most recently taught Jewish Fathers and Daughters, in Spring 2004.

Thursday

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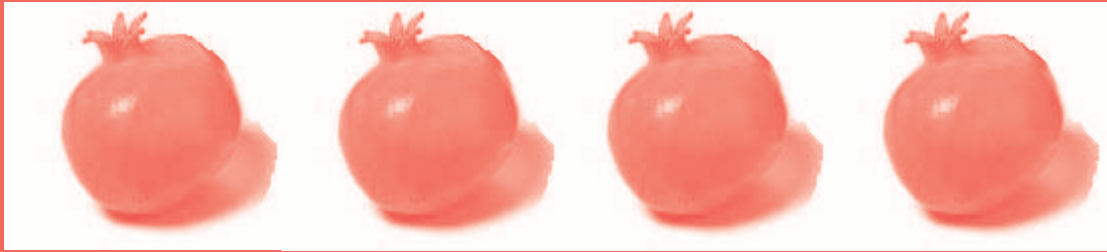
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Use the registration card on the inside cover.

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