
Fall 2010 Course Offerings



BALTIMORE
BOARD OF RABBIS



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Sept. 13

62nd Annual Adult Institute of Jewish Studies

ALL NEW COURSES!

Tuesday Evenings
October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2010

Chizuk Amuno Congregation
8100 Stevenson Road
Pikesville, MD 21208

*Made possible by a generous grant
from Sol Levinson and Bros.*

*“Learning, learning, learning —
that is the secret of Jewish survival.”*
—Abad Ha'am

The Adult Institute of Jewish Studies is unique in the U.S. because it brings together Jewish adults spanning the spectrum of communal life, young and old, to study with some of Baltimore's best rabbinic minds. The Institute's faculty comprises voices from each of the major streams of American Jewish life. Each is committed to promoting Klal Yisrael, the integrity and cohesiveness of Jewish Baltimore.

The Adult Institute offers a wide range of stimulating courses including ancient and modern Jewish history, Hebrew literature and culture, Biblical prose, Talmudic commentary, and contemporary issues. Twenty-four faculty members offer you nearly 20 courses from which to choose. There is something for everyone! This year we proudly offer a special panel program on October 5 followed by a wonderful tribute honoring the late Rabbi Mark Loeb (z"l) who took an active role in promoting the Institute for more than three decades. Also, three dynamic instructors from Towson University's new Baltimore Hebrew Institute will share their scholarship with us.

So, quench your thirst for knowledge and learning. Join hundreds of fellow Baltimore Jews for four delightful evenings of soul-satisfying nourishment!

The Institute is a splendid opportunity for the community to get together to learn. I love the vitality it always shows.

— Rabbi Avram Israel Reisner

Message From Rabbi Amy Scheinerman President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis

Dear Friends,



I am delighted to welcome you to this year's Institute of Adult Jewish Studies. I hope your participation will open new doors to intellectual challenge and spiritual meaning. The Institute offers a unique experience of *Klal Yisrael*, bringing together Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform and unaffiliated Jews to study with an equally diverse spectrum of rabbis, in an atmosphere of respect for one another and love for Jewish learning.

The Institute attracts wonderful learners and fascinating people, so I hope that you will not only meet old friends here, but make new ones as well. On behalf of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis, I want you to know that we are pleased to come together to teach, to meet you and study with you, and to know that our community can support a program of this depth. We look forward to our time with you and hope that your learning will be as meaningful to you as our teaching is to us.

Al shelosha d'varim ha-olam kayim: al ha-Torah, al ha-avodah, v'al gemilut-chasadim. Shimon ha-Tzaddik taught that the world rests upon three things: Torah, worship, and deeds of loving kindness (Pirke Avot 1:2). From a Jewish spiritual perspective, these three keep the world going. Since Torah learning is worship, and it leads to *Gemilut chasadim*, through your studies at the Institute, you are engaging in Torah that is *avodah* and leads to *Gemilut chasadim*.

May your studies bring you the riches of spiritual sustenance and intellectual challenge.

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Amy Scheinerman.
President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis

Todah rabbah!

*Thank you for generously supporting
The Baltimore Board of Rabbis and the
62nd Annual Adult Institute of Jewish Studies*

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Sol Levinson & Bros., Inc.

Scholars

Courses by Rabbis Steven Schwartz,
Dana Saroken and David Greenspoon are
sponsored by

Beth El Congregation to help
Baltimore Jews study *Torah* together

In honor of all who study and teach *Torah*
By Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation celebrates
the communal study of Torah

Temple Oheb Shalom is proud to sponsor
this year's Institute

Ralph and Shirley Klein Benevolent Foundation

Benefactors

Honoring the work of the Institute
and celebrating our own journey toward a more
complete and fulfilling Jewish life
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Meet Our Fantastic Faculty



Rabbi Geoff Basik
Congregation Kol Halev
B.A., Univ. of Maryland; M.A., Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; M.A.H.L. and Ordination, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College



Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton
Congregation Beit Tikvah
B.F.A., Concordia Univ.; M.H.L., Ordination, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College



Rabbi Andrew Busch
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
B.A., Brandeis Univ.; M.A.H.L. and Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati



Rabbi Daniel Cotzin Burg
Beth Am Congregation
B.A., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison; M.A., University of Judaism; Ordination, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the Univ. of Judaism (now, American Jewish Univ.)



Rabbi Steven M. Fink
Temple Oheb Shalom
B.A., Franklin and Marshall College; M.A.H.L., Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Ph.D., McCormick Theological Seminary



Barry M. Gittlen
Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University
Ph.B., Monteith College, Wayne State Univ.; Ph.D., Univ. of Pennsylvania



Rabbi Jay Goldstein
Beth Israel Congregation
B.A., Univ. of Wisconsin; M.A., Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary



Rabbi David Greenspoon
Assistant Rabbi, Beth El Congregation
B.A., Albert A. List College; M.A. and Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary



Rabbi Floyd Herman
Emeritus, Har Sinai Congregation
B.A., Univ. of Cincinnati; Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion



Rabbi Chaim Landau
Ner Tamid Congregation
M.A., Smichah, Jews College London; M.A. Law, Univ. of London; Smichah, Jerusalem Rabbinate



Rabbi Randi Chudakoff-Nagel
B.A., Hebrew College; M.A.H.L., Smichah, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati



Rabbi Scott Nagel
Temple Oheb Shalom
B.A., Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor; M.H.L., Ordination- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati



Rabbi Jonathan Panitz
Bolton Street Synagogue
B.S., New York Univ.; B.H.L., Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR); M.A., Providence College; M.A., Catholic Univ; M.B.A, Univ. of Phoenix; Smichah- Leo Baeck College, Jewish Theological Seminary



Rabbi Gila Ruskin
Harford Jewish Center
B.A., Univ. of Maryland-Balt. Cty; M.A.H.L., Ordination, Hebrew Union College



Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
B.A., Univ. of Michigan; M.A.H.L., Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion



Rabbi Dana Saroken
Assistant Rabbi, Beth El Congregation
*B.A., Univ. of Arizona; Ordination,
Jewish Theological Seminary*



Rabbi Amy Scheinerman
*A.B., Brown Univ; M.A.H.L.,
Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish
Institute of Religion*



Rabbi Steven Schwartz
Beth El Congregation
*B.A., Brandeis Univ; M.A., Univ. of
Maryland; Ordination, Jewish Theological
Seminary*



Rabbi Jerry Seidler
Chaplain LifeBridge Health
*B.A., Univ. of Pennsylvania; J.D., Vanderbilt
Univ. School of Law; M.A.H.L. and
Ordination, Reconstructionist
Rabbinical College*



Rabbi Benjamin Sharff
Har Sinai Congregation
*B.A., Univ. of Texas at Austin; M.A.H.L.,
Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish
Institute of Religion*



Dr. Shimon Shokek
Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson Univ.
*B.A., M.A., and Ph.D., Hebrew Univ.
of Jerusalem*



Rabbi Ron Shulman
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
*B.A., Brandeis Univ.; M.A., Univ. of Judaism;
Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary*



Rabbi Ruth Smith
University of Maryland Medical System
*B.A., Oberlein College; Ordination,
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College;
Board Certified Chaplain*



Dr. Valerie Thaler
Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson Univ.
*B.A., Yale Univ.; M.A., Brandeis Univ.;
Ph.D., Yale Univ.*

Fall 2010 Course Offerings

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

KEYNOTE EVENT for all registrants

A tribute to Rabbi Mark Loeb (z"l) on his Yahrzeit

*(See below for other Institute courses meeting on Tuesday evenings
October 12, 19, 26)*

7:30-8:40 p.m.

**Four rabbis speak personally of their relationship
to the Land and the State of Israel**

Rabbis Geoffrey Basik, Floyd Herman, Chaim Landau,
and Ron Shulman

American Jews have historically had a love affair with Israel. From pre-Statehood, to the Six-Day War, to the Yom Kippur War, to the Intifadas, to the politics surrounding a two-state solution, Jews in the U.S. have taken their Zionism seriously as evidenced by their generous financial support for the Jewish State and their political activism inside and outside the Beltway.

Just as Rabbi Loeb's Zionist ideals were idiosyncratic, so too each of our panelists' expression of Zionism and love for Israel is different. Each wrestles with the tough moral and political problems posed by the "matzav," the "situation" facing Israelis today. Each relates to the Land and the State through their different lenses, upbringing and life experiences in Israel. Join us for a lively, provocative and thoughtful discussion that will challenge your own feelings and thinking about Israel.

8:45-9:15 p.m.

Rabbi Mark Loeb (z"l) of Beth El Congregation was a multi-faceted spiritual leader, scholar and aficionado of operatic music. Cantors Renata Braun (Temple Oheb Shalom), Thom King (Beth El Congregation), Manny Perlman (Chizuk Amuno Congregation), and Robbie Solomon (Baltimore Hebrew Congregation) will present a multi-lingual tribute to Rabbi Loeb. Their presentation will reflect the richness of Jewish music through the ages. In addition, Rabbi Steven Schwartz and Rabbi Amy Scheinerman will offer brief *Divrei Torah* interspersed between musical selections.

Tuesday Evenings: October 12, 19, 26

COURSE LEGEND

Teaching style:

L-Lecture T-Text based I-Interactive

Teaching level:

B-Beginner IN-Intermediate A-Advanced

Session One 7:30-8:15 p.m.

#1 The Jewish Khazars

Rabbi Steven M. Fink

(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

“Of all the astonishing experiences of the widely dispersed Jewish people none was more extraordinary than that concerning the Khazars.” From the seventh through 10th centuries, an independent Jewish State, between the lower Volga and the Northern Caucasus, was a beacon of hope even as Jews were persecuted elsewhere in Christian Europe. The Khazars stopped the advance of Islam and communally converted to Judaism. This is the story that stirred the imagination of the Jewish people for centuries.

#2 Is Divorce a Sin? Or Can it Be For Some a Mitzvah? Let's Get started!

Rabbi Jay Goldstein

(L, T, I / B, IN)

In this class, we will seek to answer these two questions by studying some of the sources/concerns of our tradition about the concept of marriage and divorce as we learn about the *Get* (Jewish divorce document). We will address not only the personal/political/religious issues of the day, such as the *Agunah* (the “chained” wife), but also learn about the ancient scribal art of writing a *Get* from Rabbi Goldstein who has spent the last few years preparing to be a *M'sader Gittin*.

#3 Three Yiddish Short Stories in English Translation

Rabbi David Greenspoon

(T, I / B, IN, A)

Yiddish short stories are a fabulous window into a lost world. They record the hopes and struggles of the Jewish people. Their writers were unafraid to lampoon the religious and political establishment. This genre of Jewish literature is often both humorous and poignant. We will read two stories from I. L. Peretz and a third from Joseph Opatoshu that reflect these different roles and goals of the genre.

No Yiddish required.

#4 How Midrash Transforms Story Into Drama

Rabbi Chaim Landau

(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

We shall revisit stories of the Biblical Abraham through the textual eyes and analyses of midrashic review and interpretation, while also analyzing the midrashic method itself.

#5 Taking Jewish Taboo and Controversial Subjects Out Of The Closet

Rabbi Jonathan Panitz

(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

There are things in Jewish life we never like to discuss and so we keep them under wraps because they're controversial and potentially divisive. Here are three such subjects:

Oct. 12: Who Was The Real Jesus And What Was His Impact On Jews?

Oct. 19: Are Jews Not Allowed To Voice Complaints To God In Their Prayers?

Oct. 26: The Left's Attacks On Israel: A Veiled Protocol Of The Elders Of Zion?

#6 Jewish Ethical Wills

Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen

(T, I / B, IN)

You've probably thought about how you will distribute your assets after your death. Have you thought of how and to whom you will bequeath your values and ethics? Many Jews, especially in the Middle Ages, began writing wills, often in Hebrew, as a way of imparting ethical and religious instructions to their children and descendants. We'll examine examples of Jewish ethical wills past and present, and begin creating our own.

#7 The Jewish Love For, and Hate Of, Power

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

(T, I / B, IN, A)

We Jews have long had an ambivalent relationship with power. While Biblical heroes were strong, robust, and imbued with power, our religious narratives tell us we began as slaves. Even our festivals encapsulate our ambivalence about power and powerlessness. Our later rabbinic and folk traditions exalted powerlessness, as if making peace with life in the Diaspora. Today, with the sovereign State of Israel, the conversation continues: what does it mean to have and exert power? Is there a Jewish way to exercise power?

#8 The “Three Pillars” and Their Continuing Influence On Jewish Life Today

Rabbi Steven Schwartz

(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

Today’s Jewish observances can be traced back to the Torah and to the three major codes or ‘pillars’ of Jewish law, namely Maimonides’ *Mishneh Torah*, Jacob ben Asher’s *Arba’ah Turim*, and Joseph Caro’s *Shulchan Aruch*. We’ll explore each pillar’s history, context and setting, as well as examine the life of each author. A look at excerpts from each work will help us better understand the breadth of subject matter treated in these codes and how each author understands the transmission of Jewish law through history.

#9 The Modern Spiritual Quest for A Meaningful Impersonal God

Rabbi Jerry Seidler

(T, I / B, IN)

Many contemporary Jews cannot accept the notion of a supernatural deity who is personally concerned with the well being of individuals or peoples. They struggle with the relevance of religion in general and Judaism in particular. The premise of this course is that Judaism can be meaningful if we alter the way we envision and think about God. We will explore the writings of Mordecai Kaplan, Judaism’s non-supernaturalism rebbe, Harold Schulweis, Marcia Prager and Michael Strassfeld.

#10 *Am Yisrael: The People of Israel/ Eretz Yisrael: The Land of Israel/Medinat Yisrael-The State of Israel*

Rabbi Ron Shulman

(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

Today many Jews seek to know something more about who we are, how we relate to one another and to others, and to the Land and State of Israel. Today many ask questions about the nature and character of Jewish peoplehood and Zionism. Do the values and concepts of early Zionism still resonate with us today as American Jews? Will political realities change the face of Zionism? Let’s enter into this discussion by exploring traditional Jewish texts and contemporary Jewish thought.

#11 Healing and Spirituality

Rabbi Ruth Smith

(T, I / B)

Spirituality, the bedrock of Judaism, is our source of values, compassion, healing, creativity and abundance. Illness can bring a new need for connection with the spirit. This course will examine how some contemporary Jews have found and deepened their spirituality during their encounter with illness. We will also explore the role ritual can play while we’re on the journey to health, joy, happiness and meaning.

#12 A Potpourri Of Jewish Topics Ancient To Modern

Dr. Barry M. Gittlen – *Professor, Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University*

Dr. Shimon Shokek – *Professor, Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University*

Dr. Valerie Thaler – *Assistant Professor, Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University*

Join us for an academic treat as three local outstanding professors visit these topics in their inimitable style that will be intellectually rewarding.

Oct. 12: Dr. Barry M. Gittlen – “*New Insights from Old Dirt*”

Oct. 19: Dr. Shimon Shokek – “*Hebrew Language in Kabbalah*”

Oct. 27: Dr. Valerie Thaler – “*American Jewry in the 21st Century*”

#13 Creation Through Rabbinic Eyes

Rabbi Andrew Busch

(T, I / B / IN)

The Rabbinic *Midrash* offers many creative thoughts that explain and spring forth from the first chapters of *Genesis*. What did our ancestors really think about the origins of the world, humankind’s existence on this earth, humanity? Together we will enjoy exploring their enlightened views on these topics that still resonate with today’s generation. In our discussions, we will learn as much about ourselves as we do about our sages.

#14 Torah Through the Eyes of Midrash

Rabbi Daniel Cotzin Burg

Join us as we explore the body of rabbinic literature called *Midrash Aggadab* and its relationship to the Torah portion of the week. We will focus on the question: How do these layered stories inform the ancient text, reveal something about the rabbinic mind, and make Torah come alive?

#15 He Said, She Said: Husband-Wife Relationships in Torah, Talmud and Midrash

Rabbi Scott Nagel and Rabbi Randi Chudakoff Nagel
(T, I / B, IN, A)

An exploration and study of the intricacies, intimacies, difficulties, humor and joy of Jewish marriage and the loving relationship using classical Jewish texts as our guide. Together with the text we will look into the past and endeavor to gain some understanding for the present. The class will be presented from the unique perspective of a Rabbi-Rabbi, husband and wife team.

#16 Jewish Womenpower

Rabbi Gila Ruskin
(T, I / B, IN, A)

Women are making wonderful contributions to many spheres of life today. Great Jewish women, however, pre-date contemporary times. Their greatness, as illustrated by the three outstanding Jewish women we will be studying, can be understood through their unique combination of abilities and positions attained in their society. Their contributions can be assessed by what they did for the sake of family and the Jewish community. We will examine the life of the Shunamite woman from the Biblical book of *Kings*, Ima Shalom from the *Talmud*, Gluekl of Hamlin from medieval Europe.

#17 Stories and Chasidic Masters: When A Jew Can Provide No Answer, He At Least Has A Tale To Tell

Rabbis Dana Saroken and Steven Schwartz
(L, T, I / B, IN, A)

In this three part series, Rabbis Saroken and Schwartz will lead us through an exploration of different Chasidic Thinkers including The Baal Shem Tov, the Kutzker Rebbe and The Aish Kodesh (the Rabbi of the Warsaw Ghetto). We will explore the lives of these inspiring and revolutionary Jewish leaders, the stories they told, the stories that others told of them and the lessons they tried to teach with all their heart, soul and might.

#18 Moses Maimonides

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff
(L, T, I / B, IN)

Moses Maimonides was one of the greatest intellectual figures in Jewish history. In this course, we will examine the life, history, thoughts and achievements of the man most Jews know as Rambam. He was responsible for such vital works as *The Guide of the Perplexed* and the *Mishneh Torah* all while living in an Arabic-Islamic world. Maimonides' contributions have been central to Jewish life ever since, as well as to Christian and Muslim thinkers.



Adult Institute Committee

Monica Pats, *Chair*

Adar Chaim Congregation	<i>Myra Wittik</i>
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation	<i>Sig and Ada Bloom</i>
Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University	<i>Dr. Arthur Lesley</i>
Congregation Beit Tikvah	<i>Alan Baumgarten</i>
Beth Am Congregation	<i>Georgia Parker</i>
Beth El Congregation	<i>Marlene Siegel</i>
Beth Israel Congregation	<i>Henry Foxman</i>
B'nai Israel Congregation	<i>Frank Boches</i>
Bolton Street Synagogue	<i>Larry Wissow</i>
Chizuk Amuno Congregation	<i>Nadja Pats</i> <i>Monica Pats</i>
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Join us at the Institute,
beginning October 5
at 7:30 p.m.

Save 10%
Register by
Sept. 13

Your *neshama* will thank you!

Now 2 Easy Ways to Register:

1 On the Web!

Go to: www.associated.org/adultinstitute

2 By mail!

Mail the registration form and check to:

Baltimore Board of Rabbis
c/o THE ASSOCIATED
Attn: *Rivka Schwebel*
101 W. Mt. Royal Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-369-9253

PLEASE NOTE: Admission tickets for registrations received after September 13 can be picked up at the Will Call desk on opening night, October 5, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Popular classes fill early, so register TODAY! Invite a friend to join you for four Tuesday evenings this Fall. Nearly 20 courses taught by Baltimore's best rabbinic and academic minds await you! Don't miss this golden opportunity to learn a lot, *schmooze* a little, and taste the joys of reconnecting with your Jewish heritage.



“It’s great to see people I haven’t seen in a while and learn new things. The nicest part is the coming together of Jews of all denominations and learning together as Jews.”

—*Roz Pearlman*

Registration Form



Courses meet at
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
on Tuesday evenings:

October 5
October 12
October 19
October 26

7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Registration fee:

Adults: \$30 (\$27 if received by Sept. 13)

Students: \$12

Want the recipe for a great night out!

Go out to dinner with friends, and then attend courses together at the Adult Institute for additional nourishment. Your palate will never be the same! The Institute is the place to be on Tuesday evenings this Fall.

See you on October 5!

Registration

FIRST REGISTRANT (please print) Adult Student

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Session One 7:30 – 8:15 p.m. 1st choice course # _____

2nd choice (if 1st is closed) course # _____

Session Two 8:30 – 9:15 p.m. 1st choice course # _____

2nd choice (if 1st is closed) course # _____

SECOND REGISTRANT (please print) Adult Student

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Session One 7:30 – 8:15 p.m. 1st choice course # _____

2nd choice (if 1st is closed) course # _____

Session Two 8:30 – 9:15 p.m. 1st choice course # _____

2nd choice (if 1st is closed) course # _____

PLEASE TELL US

To which congregation do you belong?

How did you learn about the Institute? Jewish Times

Owings Mills Times Mailing Web Friend

Synagogue Other (specify) _____

TOTAL FEES

_____ Adult(s) | \$30/person
(or \$27/person if received by Sept. 13)

_____ Student(s) | \$12/person

Check enclosed: \$ _____

** Cut along the dotted line and return registration form and check made payable to:
Baltimore Board of Rabbis, c/o THE ASSOCIATED, Attn: Rivka Schuebel, 101 W. Mt. Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201*



c/o THE ASSOCIATED

Attn: Rivka Schuebel

101 W. Mt. Royal Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201

Baltimore's finest rabbinic minds

will quench your thirst and nourish your soul.

Our BEST Institute in 62 years. We'll prove it!

Four Tuesday evenings this Fall, beginning **October 5.**

Register by **September 13** and **SAVE 10%!**



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