

No matter what your level of Jewish knowledge, there are exciting learning opportunities at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah. Joining a class is a great way to feel connected to your *shul* community, providing an opportunity to meet people who share common interests. Make this the year that you get involved.

Classes with our Clergy

Bible BaBoker

Rabbi Annie Tucker

Join Rabbi Tucker for a weekly discussion of *Parashat HaShavua* (the Torah portion of the week). Filled with lively exploration and debate of the Torah's many wonderful - and often challenging - stories and themes, this is a great way to begin Shabbat morning. Study every week or whenever you can make it. Please feel free to join us regardless of background!

Shabbat Morning, 8:30 AM

The Weekly Haftarah

Rabbi Annie Tucker

Comprised of selections from the Prophets, the weekly *haftarah* is a powerful and often overlooked part of our weekly lectionary cycle. In this class we will explore these readings, looking at how they connect to the Torah portions they accompany and the messages that they bring.

Wednesday mornings 10 AM (1st Wed. of each month at 12:00), **beginning October 28, 2015**

iEngage (The Shalom Hartman Institute)

Rabbi Annie Tucker

The goal of the **iEngage Project** is to respond to growing feelings of disenchantment and disinterest toward Israel among an ever-increasing number of Jews worldwide by creating a new narrative regarding the significance of Israel for Jewish life. This narrative will serve as a foundation for a new covenant between Israel and world Jewry, elevating the existing discourse from one with a crisis-based focus to one rooted in Jewish values and ideas.

Thursday evenings, 8 PM, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/17, 4/14, 5/5, 6/2

God: A Philosophical and Theological Discussion

Rabbi Annie Tucker and Sandy Goldberg

In this course we will discuss the philosophical and theological issues arising in connection with the existence and nature of God. Special attention will be paid to classical Jewish sources and texts on such matters as what we can know of God, the sources of theological knowledge, and grounds for potential skepticism about the extent of our theological knowledge.

Wednesday evenings, 8 PM, February 3, 10, 17

Daily Mincha/Maariv Minyan

Cantor Pavel Roytman

Learn how to lead the daily Mincha and Maariv minyan with possible application to a Shiva minyan.

Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM, February 14, 21, 28 & March 6, 2015

From dedication to Destruction: Jewish Life Under the Maccabean Kings and Queens

Rabbi Michael Cohen

The story of Hanukkah tends to end with the miracle of finding kosher oil to use in the rededicated temple. Less often discussed is the independent Jewish kingdom that lasted for almost 100 years afterward and the role the Hasmoneans (Maccabees) still played until the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. Join us for an exploration of the flawed and remarkable kings and queens of Israel during one of the most influential periods in the development of Judaism.

Tuesday evenings, 8 PM, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 2016

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker

Rabbi Rowen Baker was ordained in 2007 by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. Since then she has served as the rabbi of Kehillat Ramot-Zion in French Hill, Jerusalem. Born to an Orthodox father and a Reform mother, she grew up within the Masorti Movement in Israel, in the Hod Hasharon TALI school and in NOAM. After her army service, she was head of MAROM, the Masorti student and young-adult organization. She holds a BA from the Hebrew University in Jewish History and Archaeology, and an MA, magna cum laude, from the Schechter Institute of Jewish studies. Rabbi Rowen Baker participated in the first class of "B'ruach", pastoral training at the oncology ward of Sha'are-Tzedek Medical Center, was the 2007 Tanenbaum Fellow of Congregation Beth-Tzedec in Toronto, and has been a fellow of RIKMA for leadership development since 2008. Rabbi Rowen-Baker lives in Jerusalem with her husband Etai, their four children Adaya, Keshet, Clil, and Yagel, and their dog Hummus.

Please join us on the Shabbat of October 23 - 24

Unusual, Perhaps Improbable, but Possible

Friday Evening, October 23, 2015

Women and Time Bound Commandments: Really?

Saturday morning, October 24, 2015

Rabbis Without Borders

Saturday afternoon, October 24, 2015

Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Reuven Hammer

Reuven Hammer is the former director and dean of the Jerusalem branch of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), 1974–92, where he served as a professor of Rabbinic literature. He holds a DHL from JTS and a PhD from Northwestern University. He was also the founding director of the Seminary of Jewish Studies (1987–90). He is the author or editor of many books, including Sifre: A Tanaaitic Commentary on Deuteronomy and Entering the High Holy Days: A Complete Guide to the History, Prayers, and Themes (JPS, 2005), both National Jewish Book Award winners. He is also a former Rabbi of Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah.

Please join us on the Weekend of November 13 - 15

To Live and Die for the Love of God: Rabbi Akiva's Transformation of the Sh'ma

Friday Evening, November 13, 2015

Bringing Religious Pluralism to Israel: 42 Years Later

Saturday morning, November 14, 2015

The Transformation of the Amida: Before and After the Fall of Jerusalem

Saturday afternoon, November 14, 2015

Akiva: The Man and the Myth

Sunday morning, November 15, 2015

Rabbi Harold Stern Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Sharon Brous

Rabbi Sharon Brous is the founding rabbi of IKAR, a vibrant Jewish Spiritual Community in Los Angeles dedicated to the integration of spiritual and religious practice and the pursuit of social justice. She was included in the Forward's annual list of the 50 most influential members of the American Jewish community for three years in a row, and was recently noted in Newsweek as one of the leading rabbis in the country. In 2008, she was the inaugural recipient of the Jewish Community Foundation's Inspired Leadership Award, recognizing inspired leadership, vision and impact in the Los Angeles Jewish community. In 2001 Rabbi Brous was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary and she received a Master's Degree in Human Rights from Columbia University, where she also received her Bachelor's Degree in History. After ordination, she served as a Rabbinic Fellow at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York City.

Please join us on the Shabbat of April 1-2, 2016

BHCBE University Scholars Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Tikva Frymer-Kensky Adult Education Fund

Fall Series

Scholar to be Announced

Monday morning, 11 AM, October 19, 2015

Dr. Blake Dutton

Professor at Loyola University Chicago

Dr. Dutton's primary areas of research includes medieval philosophy, the history of science in the Middle Ages and the philosophy of religion.

What Would Abraham Say about Judaism, Islam & Christianity

Monday morning, 11 AM, October 26, 2015

Scholar to be Announced

Monday mornings 11 AM, November 2, 2015

Spring Series

Scholars to be Announced

Monday evenings, 8 PM, May 9, 16, 23, 2016

BHCBE Film Festival

This year's BHCBE Film Festival has a theme—matriarchs. Each film uses both drama and comedy to present a strong female character managing her family, even one who isn't actually the mother and another one from beyond the grave. Come see the special films, sample the popcorn, candy, soda pop, and hot drinks, and participate in the lively discussion led by Jonathan Lehrer.

Nora's Will "Cinco días sin Nora" (2008)

Talk about a control freak, Nora, the matriarch in our first film, still attempts to manipulate her family after her death. She carefully plans her suicide so that her estranged relatives, including ex-husband José, will have to celebrate Passover together.

Saturday, December 19, 2015, 7:30 pm

***Mamele* (1938)**

Mamele is a Yiddish-language Polish musical filmed in 1938 and recently beautifully restored.

Mamele embraces the entire gamut of interwar Jewish life in Poland's textile hub of Lodz—tenements and unemployment, nightclubs and gangsters, religious Jews celebrating holidays. Molly Picon, the riveting phenom of Yiddish stage and screen, steals the show.

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:30 pm

***Passover Fever* (1995)**

Shemi Zarhin directs this character-driven drama/comedy about three generations of a modern Israeli family who convene to celebrate Passover. They find themselves feasting on a smorgasbord of dysfunction as they try to cope with their innumerable problems, among them the recent loss of a sibling/son, eating disorders, ex-wife vs. girlfriend, and suspected infidelity. Starring Gila Almagor.

Saturday, February 13, 2015, 7:30 pm

(Films subject to change)

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

This year we are offering The Rachel Wasserman Scholars Curriculum. The fall course, ***Mysticism and Kabbalah: Secret Knowledge in Judaism*** will be taught by Rabbi David Rosenberg. The spring course, ***Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders*** will be taught by Rabbi Allan Kensky. Subsidies are available for all BHCBE members. Classes are on Tuesday evenings beginning on Oct. 13, 2015.

Special Programming

Learner's Shabbat

After Rabbi Tucker's class last year on *Prayer for Dummies*, there was considerable interest in continuing the study of the meaning of the prayers as well as how to pray. In response to that interest, we are implementing a monthly ***Learner's Shabbat***. The sessions will be on the 4th Shabbat of the month beginning on **October 24**.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration

We must never forget! A heartfelt program of readings, music and prayer will help us recall the Six Million who perished. Their loss has touched us all, and they must always be remembered.

Wednesday Evening, May 4, 2016

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

It is customary on Erev Shavuot, the holiday which celebrates the giving of the Torah at Sinai, to engage in study through the night. Share an evening of learning as guest speakers and fellow congregants enrich our minds and our souls. Strong coffee and dairy delights will enrich our bodies.

Saturday Evening, June 11, 2016

Please look for Adult Education announcements and flyers throughout the year for updates on dates and times and for additional classes and events. You can also find Adult Ed information on the BHCBE website. And feel free to contact the Committee at adulted@bhcb.org with any suggestions, comments, or questions.

The **Tikva Frymer-Kensky Adult Education Fund** helps support all of BHCBE's adult education programming, and thanks to the many congregants who have contributed to this fund over the years. Ongoing support of the fund and of adult education programs at the synagogue will enable us to continue to strive for excellence in the adult Jewish learning opportunities provided by BHCBE.