



Congregation  
Agudath  
Israel

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# Adult Education

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2007-08    ✪    5768

## **THE FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL**

This innovative two-year program provides the opportunity to achieve basic Jewish literacy. A community of learners discover how Judaism developed and what it means to them. The pluralistic approach fosters an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and understanding. The curriculum was developed by scholars at the Hebrew University. Instructors are experienced educators; classes integrate history, law, beliefs, practices, and ideas through the study of texts, from ancient to contemporary.

Classes meet once a week for 30 weeks, Oct. 8-June 19. There are no prerequisites, exams, or grades, but participants are asked to make a serious commitment. Students register for one year at a time; those completing the full two-year program earn a Certificate of Jewish Learning from the Hebrew University.

### **Melton Year One**

**RHYTHMS:** Ideas, beliefs, and sources that shape Jewish life and practice, including life-cycle observances and customs.

**PURPOSES:** Why do Jews believe what they do, and what are the theological concepts that unfold in the Bible, Talmud, and other sacred texts, both ancient and contemporary?

### **Melton Year Two**

**ETHICS:** An exploration of the ethical foundations dealing with such issues as justice, life and death, marriage and interpersonal relationships, medical and business ethics, and sexuality.

**DRAMAS:** The events, trends, and movements that have shaped our people's history and development through the ages; the important highlights and watersheds from biblical times until today.

### **Melton Parent Education Program (PEP)**

*"Plant the seeds today for your child's Jewish tomorrow."*

PEP is an adaptation of the Melton curriculum for the parents of young children. PEP classes are energetic and interactive and challenge assumptions about what it means to be a Jew today.

**Instructors:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Educational Director Susan Werk

**When:** Melton Year One: Thursdays, 7-9:15 p.m.

Melton Year Two: Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Melton PEP: Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$350 a year for members (see page 15 for registration)

## ME'AH

Two-year course on the History of the Jewish Experience taught by Judaic studies college professors. Part of a nationwide learning project of the Boston Hebrew College, Me'ah — which means “100” in Hebrew, signifying 100 hours of college instruction — entails 25 hours in each of four semesters, covering the Biblical period, Rabbinic period, the Middle Ages, and Modern times.

**Instructors:** Year 1 — Professors Gary Rendsburg (Rutgers), James Diamond (Princeton), Eliezer Diamond (JTS), and Michael Chernick (Hebrew Union College)

**When:** Tuesdays, 7-9:45 p.m., Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18; Jan. 8, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6

**Cost:** \$975 per year, up to \$300 per year for books and other materials

## YEAR-LONG CLASSES

### Talmud Class

Lively and insightful discussion of Tractate Berakhot.

**Instructor:** Dr. Arnold Brenner

**When:** Sundays, 8:50 a.m.

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** No charge

### Commenting on Rashi

Discover the insights of Rashi — Rabbi Solomon Itzhaki (1040-1105) — whose work has remained a model of simplicity and clarity for all commentators and whose status as Parshandata, “the interpreter of the Torah,” is firmly established.

**Instructor:** Phil Kruger

**When:** Saturdays, one hour before Shabbat candle-lighting time, beginning Oct. 13

**Where:** Caldwell Women's Club

**Cost:** No charge

### Talmud Class

A lively and insightful discussion of Tractate Sanhedrin

**Instructor:** Dr. Arnold Brenner

**When:** Saturdays, Shabbat candle-lighting time

**Where:** Caldwell Women's Club

**Cost:** No charge

## **Torah Portion Class**

A lively, insightful discussion in English of the Torah portion related to our everyday lives. No prior knowledge needed. Each week is a self-contained unit; participants may join without prior attendance.

**Instructor:** Educational Director Susan Werk

**When:** Saturdays, 9 a.m.

**Where:** Grover Cleveland Middle School

**Cost:** No charge

## **Biblical Book of Joshua**

**Instructor:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein

**When:** Wednesdays, 9:20-10:20 a.m. (12 sessions)

**Where:** Aidekman Campus, Whippany

**Cost:** For registration details, contact Rabbi Robin Nafshi at [rnafshi@JCCmetrowest.org](mailto:rnafshi@JCCmetrowest.org)

## **FIRST SEMESTER**

### **America's Involvement in the Land/People/State of Israel**

**Instructor:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein

**When:** Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Oct., Nov., Dec.

**Where:** Aidekman Campus, Whippany

**Cost:** For registration details, contact Rabbi Robin Nafshi at [rnafshi@JCCmetrowest.org](mailto:rnafshi@JCCmetrowest.org)

### **Beginning Hebrew Prayer Reading for Seniors**

Improve Shabbat prayer skills.

**Instructor:** Randi Brokman, program director

**When:** Mondays, 11-11:45 a.m., Oct. 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$40

### **Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year I**

Learn to read Hebrew from scratch; learn prayers of Friday services.

**Instructor:** Nancy Caplan

**When:** Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m., Oct. 2-Dec. 18

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Instructor:** Greta Cohen

**When:** Wednesday evenings

**Where:** 32 Loughheed Ave., West Caldwell

**Cost:** \$240, \$120 for members, per semester

## **What Do Our Prayers Mean?**

Master a basic Siddur vocabulary of around 100 words and use them to translate some of our most commonly recited Hebrew prayers.

**Instructor:** Cantor Joel Caplan

**When:** Thursdays, 7:45-8:30 a.m., Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** No charge

## **Jewish Spiritual Direction**

Find spiritual companions in order to deepen relationships with God, nature, and the universe; find ways to make life more meaningful.

**Instructor:** Karen Frank, CAI congregation nurse

**When:** Mondays, 8-9 p.m., Oct. 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **Encountering God in our Lives**

Through the Bible, prayerbook, theology, history, and personal experiences. Part of the University of Judaism Adult Learning series.

**Instructor:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Educational Director Susan Werk

**When:** Mondays, 10-11 a.m., Oct. 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **Science and Religion: Medical Ethics**

Discover what Judaism says about birth control and abortion, artificial insemination and surrogate parenting, cloning and stem cell research, organ transplants, and assisted suicide.

**Instructor:** Rabbi Erica S. Lebovitz

**When:** Mondays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **Text Study — Holidays & Related Themes**

Analyzing the Torah, Prophets, and Megillah texts related to the Jewish calendar and its themes. Hebrew reading knowledge is helpful.

**Instructor:** Nancy Caplan

**When:** Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m., Oct. 2-Dec. 28

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$240, \$120 for members

## **Exploring & Enriching Jewish Life-Cycle Experiences**

Discover the evolution and significance of life-cycle rituals, including birth, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, divorce, family milestones, and death.

**Instructor:** Rabbinic intern Jeremy Gerber

**When:** Wednesdays, 8-9 p.m., Oct. 17, 24; Nov. 7, 14

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **The Coming of the Messiah & the Messianic Age**

An exploration of the Torah, the writings of the Prophets, and Rabbinic teachings recorded in the Talmud to shed light on the significance of the messianic period and how it relates to the past, present, and future.

**Instructor:** Rhonda Lillianthal, MA, Jewish history

**When:** Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. (bring a dairy lunch), Oct. 17, 24;  
Nov. 7, 14

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **An Eye on the Prophets**

Studying key themes of haftarah passages.

Oct. 18: Lech Lecha (Isaiah 40), the Prophetic Message of Isaiah (B)

Oct. 25: Vayera (II Kings 4), Elisha and the Omride Kings

Nov. 1: Chayei Sarah (I Kings 1), Succession Struggles and the Davidic Dynasty

Nov. 15: Vayeitzei (Hosea 13), Hosea and “Crackpot” Prophetic Antics

**Instructor:** Rabbinical student Aaron Liebman

**When:** Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **Israeli Dancing**

Learn the latest Israeli dances.

**Instructor:** Paula Spack Kessler

**When:** Mondays, 8 p.m., Nov. 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10, 17

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$25

## **Conversational Hebrew for the Non-Hebrew Speaker**

Learn a vocabulary that will enhance your trip to Israel.

**Instructor:** Randi Brokman, program director

**When:** Mondays, 8-9 p.m., Nov. 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 17; Jan. 7, 14, 28

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$40

## **Watercolor Classes, Beginners**

**Instructor:** Margie Samuels, award-winning artist

**When:** Mondays, 9-11:15 a.m., Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 12, 26;  
Dec. 3, 10

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** \$200, \$160 for members

## **Watercolor Classes, Advanced**

**Instructor:** Margie Samuels, award-winning artist

**When:** Thursdays, 9-11:15 a.m., Oct. 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 15, 29; Dec.  
6, 13

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** \$200, \$160 for members

## **Yoga: Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit**

For physical and spiritual well-being — contemplate a Jewish thought of the day and stretch and tone your body in accordance with yoga discipline.

**Instructor:** certified instructor TBA

**When:** Mondays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Sept. 10, 17, 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22,  
29; Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10, 17

Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Sept. 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24,  
31; Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19

**Where:** Caldwell Women's Club

**When:** Fridays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Oct. 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30;  
Dec. 7, 14, 21

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** TBA

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*For registration form and information, see inside back cover.*

## SECOND SEMESTER

### **Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year I**

Learn to read, sing, and understand the ideas of the Friday night Shabbat service.

**Instructor:** Nancy Caplan

**When:** Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m., Jan. 22-April 15

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$240, \$120 for members, per semester

### **Jewish Spiritual Direction**

Find spiritual companions in order to explore what it is to deepen our relationships with God, nature, and the universe and find ways to make our lives more meaningful.

**Instructor:** Karen Frank, CAI congregation nurse

**When:** Mondays, 8- 9 p.m., March 10, 17, 24, 31

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

### **Encountering God in our Lives**

Through the Bible, the prayerbook, Jewish theology, Jewish history, and our personal experiences. Part of the University of Judaism/Los Angeles Adult Learning series.

**Instructors:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Educational Director Susan Werk

**When:** Mondays: 10-11 a.m., March 10, 17, 24, 31

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

### **Exploring & Enriching Jewish Life-Cycle Experiences**

Discover the evolution and significance of life-cycle rituals, including birth, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, divorce, family milestones, and death.

**Instructor:** Rabbinic intern Jeremy Gerber

**When:** Wednesdays, 8-9 p.m., March 12, 19, 26; April 2

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **An Eye on the Prophets**

Studying key themes of haftarah passages:

March 13: Zachor (I Samuel 15), The First Kings: Saul and David

March 20: Tzav (Jeremiah 7), Jeremiah and the Foundation of  
Modern Judaism

March 27: Parah (Ezekiel 36), The Prophetic Message of Ezekiel

April 3: Shabbat Hagadol (Malachi 3), Malachi and the End of Days

**Instructor:** Rabbinical student Aaron Liebman

**When:** Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20

## **The Coming of the Messiah & the Messianic Age**

An exploration of the Torah, Prophets, and Rabbinic teachings in the Talmud and the significance of the messianic period.

**Instructor:** Rhonda Lillianthal, MA, Jewish history

**When:** Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m., March 12, 19, 26; April 2

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$20 per semester for members

## **What Do Our Prayers Mean?**

Master a basic Siddur vocabulary of around 100 words and use them to translate some of the most commonly recited Hebrew prayers.

**Instructor:** Cantor Joel Caplan

**When:** Thursdays, 7:45-8:30 a.m., March 27; April 3, 10, 17

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** No Charge

## **Israeli Dancing**

**Instructor:** Paula Spack Kessler

**When:** Mondays, 8 p.m., Jan. 7, 14, 28

**Where:** Justus Buick

**Cost:** \$15

## **The Prophets — Not Just for Haftarat**

Delve into the rich and colorful stories in the writings of the Prophets.

**Instructor:** Rabbinic intern Michael Jay

**When:** Wednesdays, 8-9:15 p.m., Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 27;

March 5

## MONTHLY CLASSES

### **Interfaith Text Study Group**

Jews, Christians, and Moslems study and compare ancient texts in an effort to understand parallels and divergences among the three faiths. Group members, seeking a greater understanding of their own faith and the faiths of others, have examined such topics as the origins and consequences of sin, the nature of evil, and the functions and methods each religion offers for atoning. This year, the group will study confession, forgiveness, and repentance. The group meets in members' homes, places of worship, or community centers. Each session stands individually and prior participation is not necessary.

**Instructor:** Phil Kruger

**When:** Sundays, 7:45 p.m.

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** No Charge

### **Shabbat Meditation**

Stop the everyday noise, meditate, quiet the mind, focus on the present, tapping into the voice of the soul, luxuriating in the stillness of Shabbat.

**Instructor:** Karen Frank

**When:** Saturdays, 9:30-11 a.m., Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12,  
Feb. 2, March 8, April 5, May 10, June 7

**Where:** Grover Cleveland Middle School

**Cost:** No Charge

### **Shal-Om Yoga**

Learn to breathe, move, and bring peace into your Shabbat observance by interweaving the traditions of yoga and Jewish mysticism.

**Instructor:** Alice Frank

**When:** Saturdays, 9:30-11 a.m., Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19,  
Feb. 9, March 15, April 12, May 17, June 14

**Where:** Grover Cleveland Middle School

**Cost:** No Charge

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*For registration form and information, see inside back cover.*

## **Legal Ethics and Jewish Law**

Study groups led by Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Rabbi Herman Savitz, or Rabbi David Saltzman

**When:** First session: Friday, Oct. 12, 7:30 a.m.

**Where:** First session: Pancake House, Bloomfield Ave., West Caldwell

**Cost:** No Charge

## **Medical Ethics and Jewish Law**

Study groups led by Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Rabbi Herman Savitz, or Rabbi David Saltzman

**When:** First session: Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** No Charge

## **CAI Book Discussion Group**

For information, contact Bonnie Rosenfeld, 973-992-2066.

## **Hadassah Book Club**

For information, contact Gail Black, 973-226-1297.

## **Kol Dodi Community Choir**

For information, contact Cantor Joel Caplan, 973-226-3600, ext. 16.

## **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group**

Join in the beautiful custom of women ushering in the month with prayer and study. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Torah required.

**Instructor:** Educational Director Susan Werk

**When:** Monthly, 7:45 p.m.

**Where:** Host homes

**Cost:** No Charge

Tishrei, Tuesday, Sept. 11, Susie Bruch

Cheshvan, Monday, Oct. 15, Gail Black

Kislev, Monday, Nov. 12, Joan Bronspiegel Dickman

Tevet, Monday, Dec. 10, Debbie Arbit

Shevat, Tuesday, Jan. 8, Sheri Horowitz-Jay

Adar I, Wednesday, Feb. 6, Abby Meth Kanter

Adar II, Monday, March 10, Jilana Dellal

Nisan, Monday, March 31, Women's Seder, Caldwell Women's Club

Iyar, Monday, May 5, Amy Borg Glickman

## **The Jewish Experience through Film**

Screening and discussion of Jewish-themed films.

**Instructor:** Rabbi Richard Hammerman

**When:** Thursdays, 7:45 p.m.

Oct. 18: “Hamsin”

Nov. 15: “The Life & Times of Hank Greenberg”

Dec. 20: “Laura Adler’s Last Love Affair”

Jan. 17: “Havanah Nagilah: The Jews in Cuba”

Feb. 21: “Avi Hoffman’s Too Jewish”

March 27: “Lies My Father Told Me”

April 17: “Under the Domim Tree”

May 15: “Crossfire”

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** \$5/film

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Saturday, Sept. 8 — Selichot services**

9 p.m., Caldwell Women’s Club

CAI Interfaith Text Study Class and the Adult Education present a pre-Selichot program, “Three Faiths Read the Akedah (The Binding of Abraham’s son)” — with speakers Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Father Ed Cuiba and Father Anthony Randazzo from Notre Dame, and a Turkish representative of the Interfaith Dialogue Center in Carlstadt.

### **Shabbat Synaplex Speakers**

Rabbi **Elisha Wolfin** of the Zichron Yaakov Masorti community

Thursday evening, Oct. 25; Friday evening, Oct. 26; Saturday, Oct. 27 (morning services and Lunch & Learn)

**Gary Rendsburg**, Rutgers University professor, renowned biblical

scholar: Analyzing Biblical Stories from a Literary Perspective

Friday night, Nov. 9, and Saturday, Nov. 10, morning services, Lunch & Learn, evening

Dr. **Amy Kalmanofsky**, JTS Bible professor

Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8

Annual Women in the Conservative Movement event sponsored by Judy and John Craig

## **On-Line Course: Judaism and Modernity—Worlds Collide**

The Conservative Yeshiva presents this 14-week on-line course taught by Matt Plen. Examine the destructive power of modern philosophy and ideology for traditional Judaism, the possibility of reconciling Judaism and modernity, and how key modern thinkers have harnessed the potential of the modern world to invigorate Jewish life. Baruch Spinoza's Theologico-Political Treatise will be explored as well as four responses: rationalism, Jewish nationalism, Modern Orthodoxy, and existentialism. Also on the agenda are studies of such great Jewish thinkers as Moses Mendelssohn, Mordecai Kaplan, Ahad Ha'am, A.D. Gordon, J.B. Soloveitchik, and Martin Buber.

**When:** Begins the week of Sept. 23, through December.

**Tuition:** \$200 — A 10% discount will be given to hevruta partners who sign up together. *CAI's Adult Ed Committee offers a \$50 subsidy to CAI members.*

**Registration:** Go to [uscjrael.researchsuccess.com/](http://uscjrael.researchsuccess.com/), click on the link to the Conservative Yeshiva on-line registration system, and choose "on-line learning fall 2007."

## **ISRAEL AT 60**

Look for more details on the following events as the dates draw nearer. For more information, contact Randi Brokman.

### **Wednesday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m.**

Screening of Israeli film "Ushpizin," a warm and compassionate story of a young haredi couple praying for a miracle.

### **Tuesday, Oct. 9**

Shirley C. Green Memorial Lecture: Israel Update by David Mallach of the New York UJA at West Orange JCC

### **Thursday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.**

Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. NY Knicks, Madison Square Garden, cosponsored by Men's Club

### **Thursday, Oct. 25**

Dinner program with nursery and religious school educators led by Rabbi Elisha Wolfen of Zichron Yaakov, TALI School educational supervisor, followed by meeting with congregants.

**Oct. 26-27, Caldwell Women's Club**

Scholar-in-residence Rabbi Elisha Wolfin of the Zichron Yaakov Masorti community, at Grover Cleveland Middle School

**Sunday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.**, CAI Walks for Israel walkathon, Grand Marshall Rabbi Elisha Wolfin, Caldwell Women's Club

**Sunday, Nov. 4**

Program on the 12th anniversary of the death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; presentation on Weizmann Institute and its state-of-the-art scientific research and development

**Feb. 7-21**

Makom Knesset Israel Trip

**March**

JTS Israeli Chamber Music Concert

**Tuesday, May 6**

MetroWest Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) program

**Wednesday, May 7,**

UJA MetroWest concert at New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary

**Thursday, May 8**

MetroWest Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) celebration

**Sunday, May 11**

Mother's Day Sisterhood program: screening of Israeli film "Shalosh Imahot" ("Three Mothers")

**Sunday, June 1**

Salute to Israel Parade, New York City

**Monday, June 2**

Yom Yerushalayim, Israel Amplified — Summer Israel Advocacy Program for college students to learn how to speak about Israel on campus.

## CAI ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION

To register for courses, please send the form and payment to:

CAI Adult Education • Congregation Agudath Israel  
20 Academy Road • Caldwell, NJ 07006

*For further information, contact Rabbi Alan Silverstein,  
Educational Director Susan Werk, or  
Adult Education Chairperson Derek Fields (derek@fields.name)*

To register for **Melton** courses, send form and payment to:

Rhonda Lillianthal, MetroWest Melton coordinator  
Melton Adult Mini-School • JCC MetroWest  
760 Northfield Avenue • West Orange, NJ 07052

*For information, contact rlillianthal@jccmetrowest.org or 973-530-3519.*

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### **Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Course title (and semester, if applicable)	Cost
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