

The Herbert Tarr North Shore Institute for Adult Jewish Education  
at  
Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation



Jewish Studies & Lectures  
2007/5768 Fall Program



KEYNOTE LECTURE  
OPEN TO ALL AT NO CHARGE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007, at 7:45 P.M

**ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN**

*National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)*

**“THE DEADLIEST LIES: THE ISRAEL LOBBY AND THE MYTH OF JEWISH CONTROL”**



Abraham Foxman, National Director of ADL, is world-renowned as a leader in the fight against anti-Semitism, bigotry and discrimination. He is in the forefront of major issues of the day, including the rise of global anti-Semitism, the war on terrorism, church/state issues, religious intolerance, interfaith relations, the State of Israel and Holocaust issues.

Born in Poland in 1940, Mr. Foxman was saved from the Holocaust by his Polish Catholic nursemaid who baptized and raised him as a Catholic. Foxman and his parents survived the war and came to America in 1950, but fourteen members of his family perished.

Mr. Foxman is a graduate of the Yeshiva of Flatbush, and holds a B.A. in political science from City College as well as a J.D. degree from New York University School of Law.

He also did graduate work at the Jewish Theological Seminary and at the New School for Social Research. He is the recipient of many awards and Honorary Degrees.

Mr. Foxman appears frequently on national news programs and is the author of “Never Again? The Threat of the New Anti-Semitism” and “The Deadliest Lies: The Israel Lobby and the Myth of Jewish Control.”

## ABOUT HERBERT TARR

Twelve years ago the North Shore Institute for Adult Jewish Education was renamed to memorialize Rabbi Herbert Tarr, the best-selling author and humorist whose warmth, wit and wisdom exemplified in his critically acclaimed novels (“Conversion of Chaplain Cohen,” “Heaven Help Us!,” “So Help Me God,” “A Woman of Spirit,” etc.) reached both Jew and non-Jew, enhancing their appreciation and understanding of Judaism. Rabbi Tarr was the quintessential Jew and truly believed that all Israel should respect and be responsible for one another—be they Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist or Reform. This Institute, now comprising 18 synagogues including one Jewish Community Center, abides by this philosophy. We are honored to fulfill Rabbi Herbert Tarr’s legacy.



**Our program offers a diverse spectrum of courses designed to broaden your knowledge and understanding of our rich heritage. The first hour will be devoted to the course you select; the second hour will feature a different guest lecturer each week who will speak on contemporary Jewish issues.**

# COURSES IN JEWISH STUDIES

Beginning Monday, October 22nd, 7:30 to 8:20 p.m.

Please select one 3-week course from SEMESTER I AND another 3-week course from SEMESTER II

## SEMESTER I (October 22nd, 29th & November 5th) MONDAYS

### Course #1

**Title: FROM THE PAGES OF THE TALMUD**

**Instructor: RABBI D. BLOCK, ROSLYN SYNAGOGUE**

Who is happy? Who is the person who is considered wise? When should I consider myself successful in life? These and many other questions are addressed in "Pirkei Avot," a work whose title is commonly translated as "Ethics of the Fathers." This Talmudic tractate is traditionally studied during the summer. In this course we will delve into the book's wisdom and whet our appetites for further study.

### Course #2

**Title: GOD IN FILM**

**Instructor: RABBI TODD CHIZNER, TEMPLE JUDEA**

This is not a film class; it is a class about God. We will use clips from popular movies as "triggers" to delve into discussion of God's nature. We will also include quotes from the Bible and from the Rabbis (ancient and recent) to give the Jewish perspectives on God's nature.

### Course #3

**Title: POETS OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF SPAIN**

**Instructor: RABBI JUDY COHEN-ROSENBERG  
COMMUNITY REFORM TEMPLE**

The Golden Age of Spain was a remarkable period in the life of the Jewish people. This class will encompass the history and poetry of that era. We will examine the work of Yehuda Halevy and Solomon Ibn-Gabirol and see if we have anything to learn for contemporary times from this prolific period of Jewish and Muslim creativity.

### Course #4

**Title: PRAISE, PETITION AND THANKSGIVING –  
IS THAT ALL THERE IS?**

**Instructor: RABBI JENI S. FRIEDMAN, TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM**

Traditional thoughts on Jewish liturgy teach us that most of our prayers are based on the formula of praise, petition and thanksgiving. In this course we will examine early *tefillot* that may be more familiar and seem to "fit" this model, as well as look at some of the more contemporary interpretations. Are praise, petition and thanksgiving the only ways we can connect to God through prayer, or can we find another way?

### Course #5

**Title: SO WHAT KIND OF JEW ARE YOU?**

**Instructor: RABBI MICHAEL STANGER  
OLD WESTBURY HEBREW CONGREGATION**

Many Jews today refer to themselves as "Reform," "Conservative," or "Orthodox," but what do these identifications really mean or entail? How do these movements differ from each other and what are their philosophical and religious foundations? We will explore their historical, sociological and theological development. We will also delve into the reason why more and more people today choose not to affiliate with any movement or identify as Jewish altogether, and what that might mean for the future of Judaism.

### Course #6

**Title: AMERICAN JEWS AND ISRAEL:  
DEFINING OUR CONNECTION**

**Instructor: RABBI MICHAEL A. WHITE, TEMPLE SINAI**

During our sessions we will examine the ancient bond Jews share with the land of Israel. We will then explore the close kinship the American Jewish community has shared with Israel since its modern rebirth, and finally move on to some of the more contentious issues we face in our relationship with Israel, i.e., the current struggle with Palestinian extremists, the anti-Israel sentiments of Jimmy Carter, Tony Judt, Noam Chomsky and others.

## SEMESTER II (November 12th, 19th & 26th) MONDAYS

### Course # 1A

**Title: A RABBI READS THE GOSPELS: WHAT THE  
PASSION NARRATIVES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT  
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT JEWISH HISTORY, JEWISH  
LAW, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
EARLIEST CHRISTIANITY AND RABBINIC JUDAISM**

**Instructor: RABBI MARTIN S. COHEN  
SHELTER ROCK JEWISH CENTER**

These lectures will consider the passages in the New Testament that recount the story of Jesus' trial and execution in light of modern scholarship, especially the work of John Dominic Crossan and Haim Cohn. The goal will be to develop a clear sense of whether these accounts constitute reliable history, embellished legend, or pure midrash designed to make a theological point independent of historical reality. Also, we will discuss what these core texts of Christian faith have to say about the future of Christian-Jewish dialogue, and whether they deserve to be considered part of the canon of ancient Jewish literature.

### Course # 2A

**Title: JUDAISM AND HEALING**

**Instructor: RABBI BENJAMIN DAVID  
TEMPLE SINAI**

Does our ability to heal and our belief in God somehow relate to one another? In light of the proliferation of healing services and great focus on prayers of healing, this class will allow us to think together about how Judaism has approached healing over time. Where exactly does the *mishheberach* come from? How has it changed over time? To what extent do present day theologians and doctors alike link healing and the presence of religion in one's life?

### Course # 3A

**Title: THE TALMUD: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE**

**Instructor: RABBI IRWIN HUBERMAN  
CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL**

This course will cover what the Talmud is, where it comes from, and why it is important to this very day. We will also study, in English, three tracts from the Talmud which are extremely applicable to our daily lives. In this study, we will learn what the Talmud tells us about living a good life, a life filled with purpose and blessings.

### Course # 4A

**Title: GOD WRESTLING, JEWISH IDENTITY AND  
MODERN HEBREW POETRY**

**Instructor: RABBI JANET B. LISS  
NORTH COUNTRY REFORM TEMPLE**

As Israelis cope with the pressures of everyday life, come and join us as we read how this is expressed in Modern Hebrew Poetry. What does it mean to consider oneself secular while writing in the Holy Tongue and using references directly from the Bible, the liturgy and other sacred sources. We will read Yehuda Amichai, Natan Zach, Leah Goldberg and others. No knowledge of Hebrew is needed.

### Course # 5A

**Title: NOT IN MY BACKYARD!**

**Instructor: RABBI ALAN B. LUCAS, TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM**

A study of Jewish sources with respect to NIMBYism (Not in My Back Yard) to understand where self interest ends and concern for others begins. Judaism teaches that care for the world must begin with care for the self. But how do we move from the legitimate concern for one's own needs to the important concern for the needs of others? By studying classical Jewish sources from the Bible, the Talmud and Rambam's Mishna Torah, we will see how Judaism wrestles with problems that impinge on some of our most urgent contemporary issues like: how does one live in a world of limited resources? How does one live in a land where two people claim the rights to the same land? How do we attempt to equitably distribute precious medical resources? Together we will explore some of Judaism's most fascinating sources and attempt to find solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems.

# LECTURE SERIES FOLLOWING COURSES

Registration in the Jewish Studies Courses (pg. 2) includes complimentary admission to the following weekly lectures.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: AMERICAN JUDAISM'S CONTEMPORARY SCOREBOARD**

**Guest Lecturer: DR. JEFFREY GUROCK**

Imagine a Yeshiva University Professor of Jewish History writing a book about sports in America! That is exactly what Rabbi Jeffrey Gurock has done in the most recent of the thirteen books he has either written or edited. In "Judaism's Encounter with American Sports," Dr. Gurock underscores the basic religious dilemmas of our day and engages the controversial role that sports has played in shaping American Jewish identity utilizing his own experiences as a basketball player, coach and marathon runner. In 1998, Dr. Gurock was awarded the coveted Saul Wiener Prize from the American Jewish Historical Society for his book, "A Modern Heretic."

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: MELODY AND MIGRATION: THE ODYSSEY OF JEWISH SONG**

**Guest Lecturer: BARRY SEROTA**

Barry Serota, a practicing attorney, is also known internationally for his work in Jewish music. As a pre-eminent producer of Jewish music sound recordings, he has been associated with many of the Jewish musical greats of the past century. He brings to their story and the story of the growth of Jewish song an intimacy and poignancy to which all audiences relate. Serota's vast knowledge of Jewish music and his unique presentation, enriched with warm and humorous anecdotes, combines aspects of raconteur and historian.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**AIPAC (AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE)**

**Title: TENTACLES OF TERROR: GLOBAL OUTREACH OF TERROR NETWORKS**

**Guest Lecturer: AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HAQQANI**

Amb. Haqqani is an Associate Professor and current Director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University. He has enjoyed a varied range of experiences as a journalist, diplomat and advisor to three Pakistani Prime Ministers. In 2002 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. and an adjunct professor at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Amb. Haqqani acquired traditional Islamic learning as well as a modern education in International Relations. He was a correspondent for "The Islamic World Review" during the turbulent years following the Iranian revolution. He also covered the war in Afghanistan which resulted in his profound understanding of militant Islamist Jihad groups. He has contributed to numerous international publications, is a prolific author and a frequent commentator on BBC, C-Span, CNN and ABC on Islamic politics.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: JEWISH MYSTICISM AND THE POST-MODERN JEW**  
**Lecturer: DR. ARTHUR GREEN**

Rabbi Green, one of the foremost authorities on Jewish mysticism, is Rector of the Rabbinical School and Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Hebrew College in Boston. After interviewing Dr. Green, Deborah Sosin wrote, "What is most striking about Arthur Green is not his warm, unpretentious demeanor or his incisive intellect; it is the cadence of his rich, bass voice. Whether reflecting on his childhood, his theology or his role as Dean, he speaks rhythmically, almost chanting, as if "davening," fully present, animated, yet seemingly attuned to something outside himself as well."

Dr. Green is both a historian of Jewish religion and a theologian. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, at Brandeis University and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College where he served as both Dean and President. He is a leading independent figure in the Jewish renewal movement.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: OUR SACRED SIGNS: HOW JEWISH, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM FAITHS DRAW FROM THE SAME SOURCE**

**Guest Lecturer: PROFESSOR ORI Z. SOLTES**

Dr. Soltes is Professorial Lecturer in Theology and Fine Arts at Georgetown University, as well as a frequent lecturer in the National Programs of the Smithsonian Institution. He is the former Director of the B'nai Brith National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. where he curated over 80 exhibitions.

Prof. Soltes was educated and received degrees in Classics and Philosophy from Haverford College, Princeton University, Johns Hopkins University and Union Institute University. He has a working knowledge of some two dozen languages and has lectured or taught throughout the United States and Europe. He is also a prolific author.

His book, "Our Sacred Signs: How Jewish, Christian and Muslim Art Draws from the Same Source," is a breathtaking and revelatory journey through human history, its gods and its art, and shows how art has long been used as an instrument to take us where words cannot follow.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: JEWS AS GLOBAL CITIZENS: OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WORLD**

**Guest Lecturer: RUTH MESSINGER**

Ruth Messinger, president of American Jewish World Service, will discuss "Jews as Global Citizens." From her own experiences in the developing world, Ms. Messinger has witnessed the enormous transformative impact that volunteering and advocacy can make in the modern era.

Prior to assuming the helm of AJWS in 1998, Ms. Messinger spent twenty years in public service in New York City, including eight years as Manhattan Borough President. She was the first woman in New York City to secure the Democratic Party's nomination for mayor in 1997.

For the past five years, Ms. Messinger has been named one of the 50 most influential Jews of the year by the venerable newspaper, "The Forward," and was listed in the top spot in 2005. In honor of her tireless work to end the genocide in Darfur, she received the prestigious Albert D. Chernin Award from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. She also was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in tribute to her life's work.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2007, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: LOOKING AT OURSELVES: THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE ON FILM**

**Guest Lecturer: DR. ERIC A. GOLDMAN**

Dr. Eric Goldman is a well-known expert on Yiddish, Israeli and Jewish film and the author of "Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present." For over a decade, he has directed the Israel film series at the 92nd Street Y and the Yiddish film series at Hebrew Union College.

The cinema provides a unique vehicle by which we may closely examine Jewish history. Dr. Goldman uses film as text to explore the changing nature of Jewish life. As a mirror of society, films often reflect the times during which they are created.

An examination of the Jew as creator, producer and subject of film provides a most unusual perspective on the American Jew—the way the Jew sees him/herself and how others perceive the Jews. Through film clips and discussion, we will learn how filmmakers created and packaged their own unique concept of the Jew—as filtered through their own consciousness.

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY BY MAIL  
BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST.**

Please complete form below & mail with a \$25.00 registration fee for each individual, made payable to:  
**Herbert Tarr North Shore Institute**

**Mail to: Herbert Tarr North Shore Inst.  
c/o Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation  
21 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury, NY 11568**

*The \$25.00 registration fee includes one class in each semester PLUS the entire lecture series.*

*For those not registering for a Jewish Studies courses, there will be a fee of \$5.00 per person for each lecture, payable at the door.*

**COURSE REGISTRATION FORM**

Last Name		First Name	
Street Address		Town	Zip
Phone Number		Congregation	

**Please fill in Course No.**

Semester I Course No. \_\_\_\_\_ Semester II Course No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE REGISTRATION FORM**

Last Name		First Name	
Street Address		Town	Zip
Phone Number		Congregation	

**Please fill in Course No.**

Semester I Course No. \_\_\_\_\_ Semester II Course No. \_\_\_\_\_

*\* We reserve the right to cancel any course due to insufficient registration.  
See [www.herberttarr.org](http://www.herberttarr.org) for additional registration forms.*

**Directions to Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation:**

**Long Island Expressway:** to Glen Cove Road exit 39. Continue on service road (eastbound) for one mile to Old Westbury Road, (look for sign reading "Westbury Gardens"). Turn right onto Old Westbury Road for one mile to temple on left.

**Northern State Parkway:** to exit 32 north (Post Avenue). Proceed north to traffic light (Jericho Turnpike). Turn left (west) onto Jericho Turnpike to next traffic light (Old Westbury Road). Turn right onto Old Westbury Road and proceed 1/4 mile to Temple on right side.

**PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS**

**MEMBERS**

**CHEVRAT TEFILLA, PORT WASHINGTON**  
**COMMUNITY REFORM TEMPLE, WESTBURY**  
Rabbi Judy Cohen-Rosenberg  
333-1839

**CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL, GLEN COVE**

Rabbi Irwin Huberman  
676-5080

**JEW CONGREGATION OF BROOKVILLE**

Rabbi Steven H. Moskowitz  
470-1700

**NORTH COUNTRY REFORM TEMPLE, GLEN COVE**

Rabbi Janet B. Liss  
671-4760

**OLD WESTBURY HEBREW CONGREGATION**

Rabbi Michael Stanger  
333-7977

**PORT JEWISH CENTER, PORT WASHINGTON**

Rabbi Sheila Goloboy  
944-6274

**RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUE OF THE NORTH SHORE**

Rabbi Lee Friedlander  
627-6274

**ROSLYN SYNAGOGUE**

Rabbi Robert D. Block  
484-0697

**SHELTER ROCK JEWISH CENTER, ROSLYN**

Rabbi Martin S. Cohen  
741-4305

**TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF PORT WASHINGTON**

767-1708

**TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM, ROSLYN**

Rabbi Alan B. Lucas  
Rabbi Jeni Friedman  
621-2288

**TEMPLE EMANUEL, NEW HYDE PARK**

Rabbi Randy Sheinberg  
746-1120

**TEMPLE JUDEA OF MANHASSET**

Rabbi Todd Chizner  
671-4760

**TEMPLE SHOLOM OF FLORAL PARK**

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker  
718-343-8660

**TEMPLE SHOLOM, WESTBURY**

Rabbi Simcha Zamir  
334-2800

**TEMPLE SINAI, ROSLYN**

Rabbi Michael White  
Rabbi Benjamin David  
621-6800

**SID JACOBSON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, ROSLYN**

Richard Zemser  
Director of Jewish Life & Learning  
484-1545

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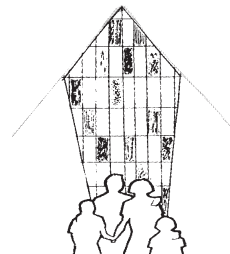
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David Schwartz, 484-8104



*Gather the people, the men,  
women, and children, and the  
strangers in your communities, that  
they may hear and learn...*  
Deuteronomy 32:12