

# The Herbert Tarr North Shore Institute for Adult Jewish Education

at  
Temple Sinai

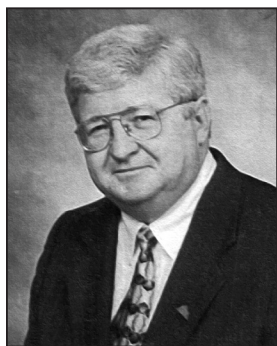
Jewish Studies & Lectures  
2008/5769 Fall Program

KEYNOTE LECTURE  
OPEN TO ALL AT NO CHARGE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008, at 7:45 P.M.

## JOHN LOFTUS

### “SECRETS BEHIND TODAY’S HEADLINES: AN INSIDE INTELLIGENCE LOOK”



John Loftus, a charming, engaging Boston Irishman now residing in Florida, possibly knows more intelligence secrets than anyone alive. He is President of the Intelligence Summit, an international non-profit, non-partisan educational center for the intelligence agencies of the free world, and is Past President and Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg to which he donated the profits from one of his books, *The Secret War against the Jews*. Three of his books have been made into films and two were international best sellers.

As a former Justice Department prosecutor, Loftus held some of the highest security clearances in the world with special access to NATO Cosmic, CIA codeword and Top Secret Nuclear files. As a private attorney, he works without charge to help hundreds of intelligence agents obtain lawful permission to declassify and publish the hidden secrets of our times. He is currently preparing a lawsuit against the Muslim Brotherhood.

Loftus has been a Consultant to the U.S. Secret Service in an ongoing investigation into terrorist money laundering. He has also been a Consultant to the United Kingdom Foreign Office as well as to the Canadian government. He is also currently the host of “The Loftus Report,” a national radio show on the Talkline Communications Network.

## ABOUT HERBERT TARR

Twelve years ago the North Shore Institute for Adult Jewish Education was renamed to memorialize Rabbi Herbert Tarr, the bestselling 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 Thursday, November 6th, 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 (November 6th, 13th and 20th) THURSDAYS

### Course #1

**Title: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE IN  
JEWISH LAW AND TRADITION**

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

Judaism extols marriage but at the same time acknowledges that divorce is sometimes indicated. In this three week course, we will attempt to outline our Tradition's approach to marriage and divorce and describe and explain the many traditions and practices that relate thereto.

### Course #2

**Title: THE TALMUD ON LIFE AND DEATH**

**Instructor: RABBI BENJAMIN DAVID, TEMPLE SINAI**

The Talmud is not so much a code of law as it is a timeless collection of narratives, commentaries and discussions. As a document, it represents our Sages' exploration of those issues that have forever spoken to us and challenged us as both individuals and as a community. What does the Talmud teach regarding the most trying beginning-of-life and end-of-life-questions? How might their conversations shed light on our own contemporary thinking? What might we infer, even all of these years later, based on their opinions? Join us as we examine and discuss a series of inspiring and memorable texts.

### Course #3

**Title: THE TALES OF RABBI NACHMAN:  
FAIRY TALES FOR THE JEWISH SOUL**

**Instructor: RABBI ROBERT E. FINE  
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF PORT WASHINGTON**

The emergence of a flourishing modern Jewish literature was made possible by the evolution from a sacred written tradition of midrash and commentary to a consciously literary, secular one. The key figure in this transition was the Hasidic master Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1810), widely recognized as the forerunner of modern Jewish literature, the first truly self-conscious storyteller in our tradition. Thirteen of these complex and fascinating tales survive, and we will explore a few of these extraordinary adventures of the spirit.

### Course #4

**Title: WOMEN IN THE TALMUD**

**Instructor: RABBI SHEILA GOLOBOY, PORT JEWISH CENTER**

Beruriah, Ima Shalom, Rachel: Who were these women, and what did their mention contribute to the Talmudic discourse? How is it that their impact has been disproportionate to the small amount of text that surrounds their stories or teachings? We'll look at some of the Talmudic texts (in translation) of these named women and others, creating for ourselves a better-rounded perspective of Talmudic life.

### Course #5

**Title: "TALKING ABOUT GOD"**

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

In this course, we will look at how we Jews have traditionally talked about God by studying sources from the Bible, the Talmud and Midrash. We will also look into Mystical Literature including the Zohar and Hasidut, as well as read excerpts from modern Jewish literature. In doing so, we will develop not only an appreciation of how our ancestors felt comfortable speaking about God, but hopefully open up new avenues for us to imagine and speak about God.

### Course #6

**Title: THE SEX OF JUDAISM**

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

There is a general assumption today amongst many that Jews tend to be very liberal regarding most political and even personal issues. What does our tradition, from the time of the Torah until the present day, have to say about intimacy between a husband and a wife? What about an unmarried couple? What are the parameters that our tradition places on conjugal relations between two individuals? How comfortable was the Torah and the Rabbis with the very notion of sex as to what might be permitted or prohibited? It might surprise you to find out! Take this class and explore a fascinating and relevant piece of Jewish tradition—not often discussed around the Friday night dinner table.

## SEMESTER II (December 4th, 11th and 18th) THURSDAYS

### Course # 1A

**Title: HEROES, HELPMATES AND HARLOTS:  
AN EXPLORATION OF WOMEN IN THE BIBLE**

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

Through close reading of the text and interactive discussion, this class will examine the role of different women in the Hebrew Bible—Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, Delilah, Deborah and others. What can we learn about these women and their lives? What can their actions teach us about how to live our own lives?

### Course # 2A

**Title: "TALMUD: TOP FIVE TRACTS  
EVERY JEW SHOULD KNOW"**

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

The study of Talmud need not be out of reach for anyone eager to learn, including beginners. This class will utilize Hebrew texts translated into English to share five of the richest lessons in the Talmud. No prior experience is necessary.

### Course # 3A

**Title: NAZISM AND ISLAMISM:  
ARE THEY MIRROR IMAGES OF EACH OTHER?**

**Instructor: IRVING ROTH**

This course will begin with a short history of Islam. Islamism is a militant political movement developed in the late 19th and early 20th century in the Middle East in response to the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the expansion of control by the British Empire. Similarities and differences between Islamism and Nazism will be explored. We will examine the historical developments of each movement, their ideologies, objectives, approaches and actions as they pursue their stated goals, as well as the propaganda techniques, alliances and the disregard of Judeo-Christian morality and ethics. We will conclude with a brief evaluation of the world's response.

### Course # 4A

**Title: "FIGHTING THE MYTHS OF HANUKA"**

**Instructor: RABBI JODIE SIFF, RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
SYNAGOGUE OF THE NORTH SHORE**

"We've come to chase away the darkness, carrying light and fire in our hands" goes the modern Israeli song. Hanuka is a time to celebrate the tiny miracle of oil and light, and the spirit of the Jewish people fighting to preserve our identity throughout the course of history. Debunk the myths and honor the women of the Hanuka legend.

### Course # 5A

**Title: HOW WE JEWS PRAY:  
UNLOCKING THE CODE OF JEWISH LITURGY**

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

In these three sessions, we will examine the logic and majesty of the Jewish worship experience. We will look at the rabbis' intent in creating the language and thematic flow of our services. Plan to come away with a greater appreciation and a more sophisticated connection to Jewish prayer.

# LECTURE SERIES FOLLOWING COURSES

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND TOLERANCE CENTER OF NASSAU COUNTY IN COMMEMORATION OF KRISTALLNACHT

**Title: WHY DIDN'T THE PRESS SHOUT DURING THE HOLOCAUST? A DISCUSSION OF PRESS ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Guest Lecturer: PROFESSOR ROBERT SHAPIRO**

Did the contemporaneous press report about the Nazi German campaign to annihilate the Jews of Europe? The not-so-shocking answer is yes! But the subject of journalism during the Holocaust is complex--somehow the way in which the many individual stories about aspects of the Holocaust were reported undermined the ability of the public to recognize the magnitude of what was happening. To an extent, the failure of the press to report the Holocaust more effectively was the result of specific decisions by powerful factors in the worlds of journalism and government.

Dr. Shapiro, a noted Holocaust scholar, was born in Germany to Polish Jewish Holocaust survivors. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with honors and earned a PhD from Columbia University while holding fellowships at the Max Wernreich Center of the YIVO Institute and at Hebrew University. He has received several awards for his highly acclaimed book *Lodz Ghetto: A History*.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: IF EINSTEIN WERE MY RABBI**

**Guest Lecturer: RABBI DAVID NELSON**

Our ancient sages framed Judaism in terms of the world they knew. It was a world of kings and priests, temples and simple agriculture. Today we see the world in very different ways. The scientific developments of the past 100 years have radically altered how we understand reality. Rabbi Nelson, author of *Judaism, Physics and God: Searching for Sacred Metaphors in a Post-Einstein World*, will guide us through the process of wondering what our Judaism might look like if we were to incorporate our modern, scientific views into our ancient tradition.

Rabbi David Nelson, PhD, is a popular lecturer. He is currently Executive Director of ARZA, Association of Reform Zionists of America, an organization committed to strengthening the bond between Reform Jews and Israel.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: UPDATE ON ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Guest Lecturer: MICAH D. HALPERN**

Micah Halpern has a track record. He is a political and social commentator, historian, educator and syndicated columnist with expertise in the dynamics of political terrorism, Muslim Fundamentalism and the Middle East. He frequently provides commentary, perspective and analysis for network TV and radio. He is the author of the bestselling book, *Thugs*, which recounts how history's most notorious despots transformed the world through terror, tyranny and murder.

Halpern has taught at Brandeis University and Hebrew University and has lectured at Yale University. He is a well-known speaker on issues relating to terror, foreign affairs, Israel and the Middle East, as well as wine history and popular culture. For fun, he writes a column on kosher wines and is one of the only exclusively kosher wine reviewers in the world.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: STEM CELL RESEARCH AND JEWISH LAW: CONFLICT OR CONSONANCE**

**Lecturer: DR. EDWARD REICHMAN**

Edward Reichman is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Associate Professor of Philosophy and History of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, where he teaches medical ethics. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and writes and lectures widely in the field of Jewish medical ethics. His research is devoted to the interface of medical history and Jewish law.

Dr. Reichman will address the latest advances in the field of stem cell research and will discuss the Jewish approach to the use of human embryos for scientific study. An overview of the biology of stem cells and their potential clinical uses will be presented, followed by the analysis of rabbinic literature, drawing on texts from our rich Jewish heritage.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: JEWISH LIFE IN ARAB COUNTRIES**

**Guest Lecturer: SAUL SILAS FATHI**

Saul Fathi, an Iraqi Jew, was born into a prominent Baghdad family. At the age of ten, he was smuggled out of Baghdad through Iran and eventually arrived in the newly established state of Israel. He studied at the Israel Air Force Academy of Aeronautics and became certified in electrical engineering. He then worked his way to Brazil, struggled greatly, and eventually started his own business and earned a patent for climate-controlled windows used in the building of Brasilia, Brazil's capital city.

In 1960, Fathi came to the United States on a student exchange visa. He volunteered to serve in the United States Army in exchange for United States citizenship and an education. He earned a B.S. degree in electrical engineering at the University of Virginia and has had an impressive career as a high-level executive with several Fortune 500 companies. He has also founded three high-tech companies of his own and is the author of *Full Circle: Escape from Baghdad and the Return*.

Fathi will focus on three historic periods in Jewish life in the Middle East: The destruction of the Temple, Jewish life under Islamic rule and the Ottoman Empire and "Krystallnacht" in Baghdad (Farhood), as well as the current situation in Iraq and Iran.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 2008, 8:30 p.m.

**Title: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF CHANUKAH "BRING ON THE LIGHT!"**

Thrill to the harmonious voices of Cantor Gabi Arad (Temple Sinai), Cantor Ofer Barnoy (Temple Beth Sholom), Cantor Rebecca Elliston-Goren (North Country Reform Temple) and Cantor Eric Schulmiller (Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore). Join us for a de"light"ful evening of Chanukah music to conclude the 2008/5769 HERBERT TARR SERIES on a high note!

**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 Temple Sinai, 425 Roslyn Road  
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577**

*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 for additional registration forms.*

**Directions to Temple Sinai:**

**Northern State Parkway East** to Exit 29 (Roslyn Road). At traffic light, turn left (South) for 2/10 of a mile. Temple on left side.

**Northern State Parkway West** to Exit 31 (Glen Cove Road) Turn left at light and go to I.U. Willets Road. Turn left at light and continue to Roslyn Road. Turn right at light and proceed to first traffic light – Temple on right side.

**L.I.E. East** to Exit 37 (Willis Avenue). Follow Service Road to 2nd light (Roslyn Road). Turn right and proceed 4/10 mile to 3rd traffic light. Temple is on left side of road.

**L.I.E. West** to Exit 39 (Glen Cove Road). Follow Service Road to 3rd traffic light (Roslyn Road). Turn left on Roslyn Road and proceed 1/2 mile to 4th light. Temple is on left side.

**PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS**

**MEMBERS**

**CHEVRAT TEFILLA, PORT WASHINGTON**

**CHAIRS**

Sondra Winder, 883-5393

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333-1839

David Middleman, 333-7662

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Reb Irwin Huberman  
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Sharon Berliner, 676-8597  
Deborah Siegel, 676-1054

**JEWISH CONGREGATION OF BROOKVILLE**

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Susanne Seperson, 671-8354  
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**NORTH COUNTRY REFORM TEMPLE, GLEN COVE**

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Bunie Veeder, 333-2289  
Renee Mordfin, 822-9013

**PORT JEWISH CENTER, PORT WASHINGTON**

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944-7202

**RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUE OF THE NORTH SHORE**

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Rabbi Jodie Siff  
627-6274

Lee Parker, 621-8762

**ROSLYN SYNAGOGUE**

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484-0697

Beile Block, 484-9138  
Edith Levy, 484-0053

**SHELTER ROCK JEWISH CENTER, ROSLYN**

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Shirley Shulimson, 385-6041  
Judith Turkewitz, 248-2534

**TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF PORT WASHINGTON**

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Jay Silverman, 663-6606

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Rabbi Jeni Friedman  
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Florence Meyer, 621-6250  
Bob Perla, 621-6448  
Pearl Halegua, 484-6587  
Ellen Walk, 742-3787

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Pam Winter, 248-6141

**TEMPLE JUDEA OF MANHASSET**

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Bea Gerstein, 747-2867  
Lynn Levine, 484-0997

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Maxine Baden, 718-631-4696

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334-2800

Helene Sigalow, 333-5067  
Regina Pomerantz, 334-8052

**TEMPLE SINAI, ROSLYN**

Rabbi Michael White  
Rabbi Benjamin David  
621-6800

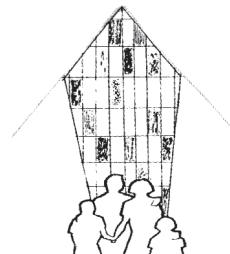
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Fran Nagin, 626-9080  
David Schwartz, 484-8104

**SID JACOBSON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, ROSLYN**

Department of Jewish Life & Learning  
484-1545

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Marion Lowenthal, 621-4786  
Shirlee Roberts, 621-0323  
Fredda Klopfer, 671-8418



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