The Westchester Board of Rabbis and
The Westchester Jewish Council
Present

NIGHT OF JEWISH LEARNING AND CELEBRATION 2.0

The Virtual Edition

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Zoom Links for sessions
starting at 7:30 and 8:30pm
are included with class descriptions

For more info email donna@wjcouncil.org

WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL
Connect Here

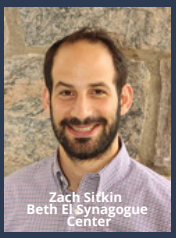
WESTCHESTER BOARD OF RABBIS

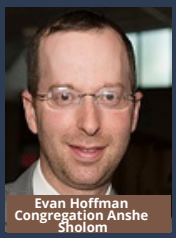
PROUD PARTNER UJA FEDERATION

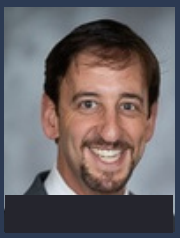
NIGHT OF JEWISH LEARNING AND CELEBRATION 2.0

The Virtual Edition

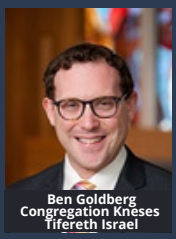
David Schuck
Beth El Synagogue Center

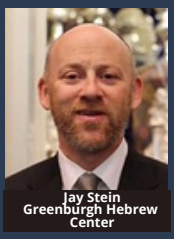

Zach Sitkin
Beth El Synagogue Center

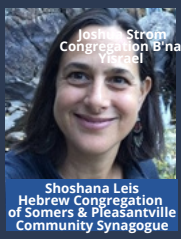

Evan Hoffman
Congregation Anshe Sholom



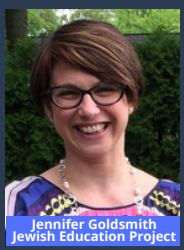
Howard Goldsmith
Congregation Emanu-El


Ben Goldberg
Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel


Jay Stein
Greenburgh Hebrew Center


Joshua Strom
Congregation B'nai Yisrael

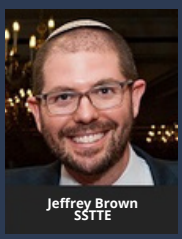
Shoshana Leis
Hebrew Congregation of Somers & Pleasantville Community Synagogue

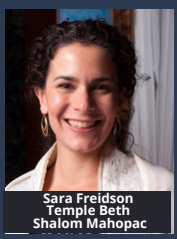

Jennifer Goldsmith
Jewish Education Project

Harry Pell
The Leffell School

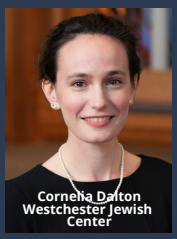
Solomon Hoffman
Mishkan Ha'am

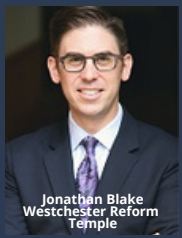
Daniel Sayani
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel


Jeffrey Brown
SSTTE


Sara Freidson
Temple Beth Shalom Mahopac

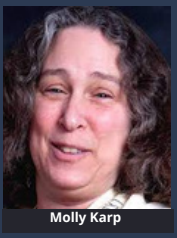
Josh Lookstein
Westchester Day School


Cornelia Dalton
Westchester Jewish Center


Jonathan Blake
Westchester Reform Temple

Fredda Cohen
White Plains Hospital

Nuriel Klinger
Young Israel of Scarsdale


Molly Karp

NIGHT OF JEWISH LEARNING AND CELEBRATION 2.0

The Virtual Edition

Saturday,
November 20th

Session One- 7:30pm

Zach Sitkin
Beth El Synagogue Center
A Heart of Flesh: Select Teachings from Rebbe Nachman of Breslov
Does Judaism favor joy over other emotional experiences? What role does joy play in connecting us to God? In this class we will discuss experiencing joy as a spiritual practice through the lens of one of the greatest early chassidic thinkers-Rebbe Nachman of Breslov.

Evan Hoffman
Congregation Anshe Sholom
What Happened to the Hanukah Feast?
Hanukah has its parties and customary foods, but it does not feature a formal religious obligation to have a feast. Does the nature of antisemitism explain why not?

Joshua Strom
Congregation B'nai Yisrael
My Brother's Keeper: A Deeper Exploration of Cain and Abel
Cain and Abel, the first human-born children in the Torah, are also the perpetrator and victim of the world's first fratricide. What does our tradition say about why it happened? How did their birth order and occupation contribute? Was this murder or manslaughter? And what ultimately are we to learn? Join Rabbi Joshua Strom for an exploration of the legacy of Cain and Abel, and how their story continues to resonate today.

Jay Stein
Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Prayers of Today
The modern Israeli songwriters have written songs that could easily become modern day prayers. In this session we will listen to and read through some of the great lyrics coming out of Israel. We will be inspired by their words and sounds.

Jennifer Goldsmith
Jewish Education Project
Helping our Learners and their Families Thrive Post-Pandemic
How can we best support our learners and their families to live a life of fulfillment and meaning? Join this one-hour interactive session as we explore what it can mean to thrive Jewishly in today's uncertain world. Uncover new questions we should be asking about Jewish education and learn how concepts from Post-Traumatic Growth can inform the choices we make.

Solomon Hoffman

Mishkan Ha'am

References to Music in Early Jewish Sources

For many Jews today, music is an integral part of the prayer experience. This class will examine references to music in the Mishnah, Talmud, and other early Jewish sources to explore how our ancestors engaged with music. We will look at how conversations about music intersected with other issues, and consider how these texts might inform our experience of music today.

Jeffrey Brown

Scarsdale Synagogue- Temples-Tremont and Emanu-El

A Great Miracle Happened There? Voices Old and New on the Question of Miracles

Join Rabbi Jeff Brown of Scarsdale Synagogue as we prepare for the arrival of Hanukkah by looking at a range of philosophical voices from our tradition on the question of miracles and what constitutes the miraculous.

Sara Freidson

Temple Beth Shalom Mahopac

Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Manischewitz: Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean

Ahoy, maties! We'll explore the sordid history of the medieval Jewish pirates, including one who was a Rabbi and another who was Barbarossa's right-hand man. Fleeing the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal, a number of Jewish merchants took to the seas, attacking Spanish and Portuguese ships coming from the "New World." Their stories offer a fascinating window into a largely forgotten chapter of Jewish history.

Joshua Lookstein

Westchester Day School

Birkat Hamazon: It Ain't Just Grace

The biblical source of the "Grace After Meal" is really 3 words. The context of those 3 words, however, contains some of the most important ideas in Judaism. This class will explore those ideas and the way they shed light on Birkat Hamazon and other Jewish liturgy.
https://westchesterday-org.zoom.us/j/2304041138

Jonathan Blake

Westchester Reform Synagogue

Jewish Nondualism: What if God and You Aren't Two?

Rabbi Jonathan Blake will introduce us to Nondualism: the concept that God and the rest of the Universe are, in fact, One. Follow? No? Then come and learn! We will explore texts and traditions from Jewish Mysticism (Kabbalah) and the Hasidic Masters that will open our consciousness to a radical new way of understanding God and our relationship with the Divine.

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Session Two- 8:30pm

David Schuck
Beth El Synagogue Center
An Examination of Authenticity and Sincerity
This class will examine questions about the importance of authenticity and sincerity in Jewish life. Does Jewish law require these psycho-emotional states as part of Jewish ritual practice? What are the limits of sincerity and authenticity in Jewish life and how might we value them appropriately?

Howard Goldsmith
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester
An Eye for an Eye
Throughout the ages this simple principle of justice has been understood in myriad ways. We will explore its compassionate side and its cruel side using traditional texts and contemporary lenses.

Ben Goldberg
Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel
Isaiah's "Suffering Servant" in Judaism and Christianity
Chapters 52-53 of the Book of Isaiah have long been a flashpoint in Jewish-Christian debate and dialogue. This passage is essential to the faith of many Christians, but is unfamiliar to many Jews, even as it is found in our Scripture as well. This session will study part of this passage in both Jewish and Christian translation. Then, we will consider how it was received in both the New Testament and the Talmud as an occasion to probe the spiritual meaning of suffering.

Shoshana Leis
Hebrew Congregation of Somers
Pleasantville Community Synagogue
The Torah of Joy
We will explore joy amidst suffering, inspiring new insights and increased awareness to the blessings we discover in every moment no matter what our circumstances. This year I am grieving the untimely death of my father on Shabbat Shuva. Since that time I have felt comfort in my Rosh Hashanah sermon on the theme of Joy, a core Jewish value for living, no matter what you are living through. Whether you are grieving a loss, dwelling in disease or isolation or facing fear or uncertainty, the Torah of Joy will bring you back to the possibility of joy.

Harry Pell

The Leffell School

A Virtual Journey Through Auschwitz-Birkenau

Each winter, seniors from The Leffell School walk the grounds of the former Nazi concentration and death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau to better understand how it functioned and to pay tribute to the memories of the 1.1 million Jews and others who were murdered there. It has not been easy to visit Poland this past year and a half, so we instead offer the opportunity to take a virtual tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Using the technology of Zoom, coupled with maps and both historical and contemporary photographs, we will take a virtual walk through the length and breadth of the camp grounds to bring to fruition the words, "Never Again."

Daniel Sayani

Plaza Jewish Community Chapel

Jewish Approaches to Death and Dying: Halakhot of the Chevra Kadisha

In this session, we will explore the Jewish approach to death and the afterlife through the prism of the rituals of shmirah and taharah. The interface of theological principles and their reflection in halakhic sources will be explored.

Adam Baldachin

Shaarei Tikvah

The Jewish People as "Ivrim": Becoming Active Participants in a Complicated World

Avram is described as "Ivri," or Hebrew. In this text study and discussion, learn how the rabbis of midrashic literature explained this term and challenged future generations to strive to be more like Avram. Specifically, what has it meant for Jews throughout millennia to be "ivrim?" What would it mean for us to be more comfortable taking risks, standing apart from the crowd, and introducing new perspectives into our lives? By reflecting on this model, how can we engage in difficult conversations about things that matter?

Fredda Cohen

White Plains Hospital

Learning Torah Trope

This class will teach you the fundamentals of chanting Torah. The instructor learned in middle age and you can do it too. Understanding the principles of Torah trope - yes, there is a system -will provide you with the basic skills to chant Torah and enhance your Torah service experience.

Nuriel Klinger

Young Israel of Scarsdale

Why Did the Jews Insist on Relighting the Menorah? Understanding the True Beauty and Message of the Light of the Menorah

This session will focus on the placement of the Menorah in the Tabernacle and Temple and the symbolism that emerges from that placement. Through this symbolism we can understand why it is that the Maccabees insisted on relighting the Menorah right away upon regaining control of the Temple.

Molly Karp

Recognizing the Good: Hakarat HaTov

Life can be challenging, and is regularly filled with unpleasantness, grief, sorrow, and unhappiness. Recognizing the good is a way to shift our attention from what is wrong to what is right; what is good in life and in other people as opposed to what is bad. This practice can actually help us to be kinder, happier, and more satisfied with our lives as they unfold. We will explore and discuss this Jewish view together.

Member Organizations and Synagogues

Academy for Jewish Religion
ACHI - American Communities Helping Israel
AIPAC - American Israel Public Affairs Committee
AJC Westchester/Fairfield
Alma - Alma Research and Education Center
American Friends of Israel Sport Center for the Disabled
American Friends of Magen David Adom
American Friends of Soroka Medical Center
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
American Zionist Movement (AZM)
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
Areyvut
BBYO Westchester Region
Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Bet Torah
Beth El Synagogue Center
The Blue Card
Bronx Jewish Community Council, Inc
Camp Zeke
Chabad Center for Jewish Life of the Rivertowns
Chabad of Bedford
Chabad of Larchmont and Mamaroneck
Chavurat Tikvah
Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries (CAJAC)
CSS – Community Security Service
Community Synagogue of Rye
Congregation Anshe Sholom
Congregation B'nai Yisrael
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester
Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel (KTI)
Congregation Kol Ami
Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties
Congregation Sons of Israel - Briarcliff
Congregation Sons of Israel - Yonkers
DOROT
First Hebrew Congregation
Fleetwood Synagogue
Friends of Israel Scouts - Tzofim
Friends of the Israel Defense Forces
Fuel for Truth
Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Hadar
Hadassah - Westchester Region
Hazon
Hebrew Congregation of Somers
Hebrew Free Burial Association
Hebrew Free Loan Society
Hebrew Institute of White Plains
HIAS
Hillels of Westchester
Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center
ImpactIsrael
Israel Bonds (Development Corporation for Israel)
Israel Policy Forum
J Street
JCCA
Jewish Broadcasting Services (JBS)
Jewish Community Center of Harrison
Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester
Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon
Jewish Deaf (and Hard-of-Hearing) Resource Center
The Jewish Education Project
Jewish National Fund of Westchester & Southern CT
The Jewish Theological Seminary
Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society
Keshet
Kol Hazzanim: Westchester Community of Cantors
KolRinah, The Jewish Chorale of Westchester
Larchmont Temple
The Leffell School
Lincoln Park Jewish Center
Magen David Sephardic Synagogue
Mishkan Ha'am
MJHS Health System
Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Moving Traditions
New Israel Fund
The New Jewish Home - Sarah Neuman
New York Medical College
Northeast Jewish Center
Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies
Pelham Jewish Center
PJ Library
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel
Pleasantville Community Synagogue
RiverSpring Health Featuring the Hebrew Home at Riverdale
Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns
Sanctuary NY
Scarsdale Synagogue - Temples - Tremont and Emanu-El
Shaarei Tikvah
Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Shames JCC on the Hudson
Sinai Free Synagogue
Sprout Westchester
StandWithUs
Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park
Students & Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism (SPACA)
Tamid Westchester
Temple Beth Abraham
Temple Beth Am
Temple Beth El - Danbury
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester
Temple Beth Shalom - Hastings
Temple Beth Shalom - Mahopac
Temple Israel Center of White Plains
Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester
Temple Sholom
Touro College of Dental Medicine at NY Medical College
Tzahal Shalom of Northern Westchester
UJA-Federation of NY/Westchester
Union for Reform Judaism
United Hebrew of New Rochelle
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism - METNY
Westchester Board of Rabbis
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI)
Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism
Westchester Day School
Westchester Hebrew High School
Westchester Jewish Center
Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)
Westchester Klezmer Program
Westchester Reform Temple
Westchester/Fairfield Association of Temple Educators (WATE)
Woodlands Community Temple
The Workers Circle
Young Israel of Harrison
Young Israel of New Rochelle
Young Israel of Scarsdale
Young Israel of White Plains