

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

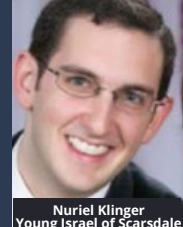
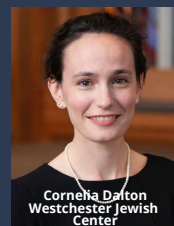
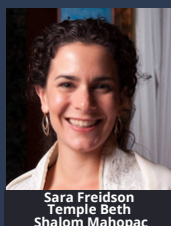
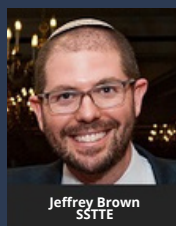
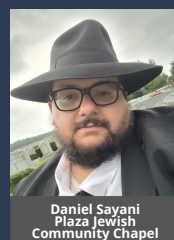
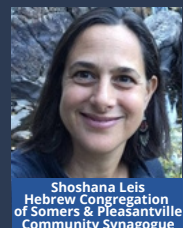
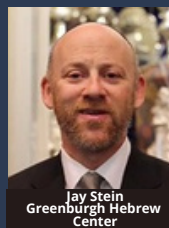
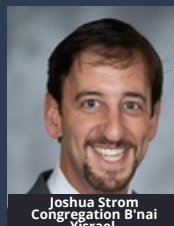
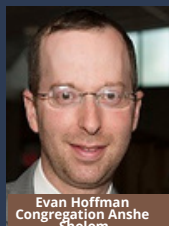
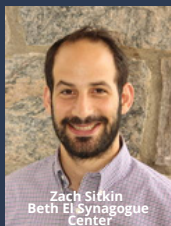
Zoom Links for sessions  
starting at 7:30 and 8:30pm  
are included with class descriptions

For more info email [donna@wjcouncil.org](mailto:donna@wjcouncil.org)



# NIGHT OF JEWISH LEARNING AND CELEBRATION 2.0

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## 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/93722038747?pwd=NnZxSmhONTVhVWNHUWMxRXBpU2FKQT09>

### Evan Hoffman

Congregation Anshe Sholom

[What Happened to the Hanukkah Feast?](#)

Hanukkah 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?

<https://zoom.us/j/807751748?pwd=ODZHUnJCZCsrd3YzbnNhVE9ENEdqZz09>

### 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750346002>

### 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.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86794505954?pwd=UWU0TG91bXRIOUtlldUtKMVjaeW9CZz09>

### 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/92413365375>

## **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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88083928443?pwd=VXVCcnVTNk5bzHFK2IHS1lvYi85dz09>

## **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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84024345613pwd=dDVhK3VQcDRIOVhmNmtCMm5VYmMvQTO9>

## **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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82668491421?pwd=aDFUZF1bmgrMFIgN2tKeFpReXVXQT09>

## **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-school.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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9842057288?pwd=QTNqQkIST052NFU3ekxCYkpqMnRaQT09>

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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?

<https://zoom.us/j/98022898799?pwd=OFFyRVVvZUUyd1owS0tKTvhqMWJodz09>

### 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.

<https://tinyurl.com/cewconnect>

### 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88374478983?pwd=QllPek4xeXphdGJjZE45UkVOWXF6dz09>

### 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.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86843130342?pwd=MkVpT3JTM0hLQnVSUmdMTGZaYi9Ndz09>

## 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."

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88198453498?pwd=dG1QV2QrOCtEemZVER5dTRuNFZRUT09>

## 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.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89137105223?pwd=Z0hsRm40NldBTXYyaNNUIBHRnBiUT09>

## 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?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896857976>

## 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759869201?pwd=cVlreWtidXRlRy9JSURUeXk2TmpPUT09>

## 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/9146368686?pwd=NGwrYytCdVovS0NLTvJENXg5VWZSdz09>



## 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83114490946?pwd=TXZLUUorSGJmZ2Q2eIFkdmJVQW41UT09>





# 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  
Shaareil 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