



CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

THE RABBI SAMUEL SCOLNIC ADULT INSTITUTE

FOUNDED IN 1977 IN MEMORY OF SAUL BENDIT

Fall 2017

"FIX A PERIOD FOR THE STUDY OF TORAH"
PIRKEI AVOT 1: 15

REGISTER ONLINE!
Register NOW for the Early Bird Discount.
Deadline: October 3

SIX TUESDAY MORNINGS
October 17, 24, and 31; November 7, 14, and 28

SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
October 18 and 25; November 1, 8, 15, and 29

No classes November 21 and 22

All classes are open to the public.
There is no prerequisite—only a desire to participate, learn, and enjoy.

THE RABBI SAMUEL SCOLNIC ADULT INSTITUTE, founded in 1977 in memory of Saul Bendit, is one of the leading synagogue-based adult education programs in the Washington, DC area. Now in its 40th year, the Institute has received national and international recognition. The Fall program, running for six weeks, comprises 11 courses offered Wednesday evenings beginning October 18, and four classes offered Tuesday mornings, beginning October 17. We are confident that you will find the courses interesting and informative.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

WITH MINYAN/REFRESHMENT BREAK FROM 8:20-8:40 PM

7:30 - 8:20 PM

8:40 - 9:30 PM

**Innovative Jewish Thinkers Honored
in the Streets of Jerusalem**

Rabbi Gregory Harris

Jonah, the Reluctant Prophet

Rabbi Fabián Werbin

**He Said, She Said: Two Rabbis Discuss
Gender in Torah Commentaries**

*Rabbi Emeritus William D. Rudolph and
Adjunct Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy*

Surveying the History of Jewish Music

Hazzan Asa Fradkin

The World of Yiddish Folksong

Hazzan Emeritus Abraham Lubin

After the Holocaust:

What Was Lost, What Remains

Guest Speakers

**Scholarly Shenanigans – The Saga of
the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Rabbi Steven M. Glazer

**History of Israel from Independence
Through Camp David**

Eric Gartman

Joy in Judaism, from Sinai to Shoah

Adjunct Rabbi Evan Krame

**Star Trek: "To Boldly Go Where No
One Has Gone Before"**

Adjunct Rabbi David L. Abramson

Covenants in the Bible

Gideon Amir

TUESDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

WITH REFRESHMENT BREAK FROM 10:50-11:10 AM

10:00 - 10:50 AM

11:10 AM - NOON

The World of Yiddish Folksong

Hazzan Emeritus Abraham Lubin

**Star Trek: "To Boldly Go Where No
One Has Gone Before"**

Adjunct Rabbi David L. Abramson

**Scholarly Shenanigans – The Saga of
the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Rabbi Steven M. Glazer

Covenants in the Bible

Gideon Amir

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

INNOVATIVE JEWISH THINKERS HONORED IN THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM

Instructor: **Rabbi Gregory Harris**, Wednesday evening

Many innovators of Jewish history are hidden in plain sight in Jerusalem, on the street signs. The cities of Israel take their street names from historical figures, places and dates. This semester, we will pause to unpack the people who are commemorated across Jerusalem on the city's street signs – think King George or Ben Yehuda Streets. Focusing on the most familiar locations in Jerusalem, we will appreciate these areas in new ways by thinking about the people celebrated in the names of the streets where we walk, shop and drive.



Ben Yehuda Street at night,
Wikimedia Commons

HE SAID, SHE SAID: TWO RABBIS DISCUSS GENDER IN TORAH COMMENTARIES

Instructors: **Rabbi William D. Rudolph** and **Adjunct Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy**, Wednesday evening



w-z.com

The *Torah* is full of men's struggles with God. Traditional *Torah* commentaries (think Rashi) are full of men's comments on those struggles and on *Torah* in general. The paucity of female *Torah* stories cannot be changed, but the dearth of female voices about *Torah* is being partially remedied in our time. We will examine *Torah* commentaries written recently by

women rabbis/scholars. The two primary resources for the course will be texts by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein and Dr. Tamara Eskenazi. Our own teachers, Rabbis Mindy Portnoy and Bill Rudolph, will lead class reflections on these commentaries. Are they valuable? Do they open us to new ways of thinking? Or are they forced? The learning and the dialogue promise to be exciting.

THE WORLD OF YIDDISH FOLKSONG

Instructor: **Hazzan Emeritus Abraham Lubin**, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening

The course will explore the colorful repertoire of this genre of Jewish music, considering a variety of Yiddish songs. Some have become widely recognized as “folk songs,” such as “Oyfn Pripetshik” (children’s alef bet song), or “Belz” (“My Little Town of Belz,” e.g., recorded by T. Bikel). Other selections originated in the theater, such as “My Yiddische Momme” (from vaudeville stage to #5 USA Billboard hit in 1928). Students may learn to sing a Yiddish song or two, and can anticipate a live mini recital performed by Hazzan Lubin, with piano accompaniment, during the final class!



jewishhumorcentral.com

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SCHOLARLY SHENANIGANS – THE SAGA OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Instructor: **Rabbi Steven M. Glazer**, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening



Think scholarship is dull? Think again! The stories of the discovery and publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls contain all the elements of a television soap opera: greed, jealousy, backstabbing, and more. This course examines these stories, as well as the contents of the Scrolls and several theories of authorship. *NOTE: This class will not meet Tuesday morning, November 7. The class will meet for an extra 10 minutes (10:00 AM – 11:00 AM) for all other Tuesday sessions. This schedule change does not affect Wednesday evening classes. Tuesday morning registrants may attend another class of their choosing on November 7.*

Dead Sea Scroll 4Q175, Wikimedia Commons

JOY IN JUDAISM, FROM SINAI TO SHOAH

Instructor: **Adjunct Rabbi Evan Krame**, Wednesday evening

In this class we will explore Jewish connections to joy, play, and humor. Discussions will include fulfilling the *mitzvot* of being joyful, practical guides against frivolity, *midrash* on God's playfulness, *Chasidic* connection to God through mirth, and humor as a response to tragedy.



kidnkids.com

COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE

Instructor: **Gideon Amir**, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening



Dankgebet nach Verlassen der Arche Noah (1901), Domenico Morelli, Wikimedia Commons

What are the covenants in the Bible between God and the individual, Israelites, other nations, or all of humanity? We shall examine different types of such covenants as portrayed in the Bible. We will also trace the origins of the terms Old and New Testament and will consider the important theological issue of whether the New Covenant is another valid covenant besides the Old Covenant or does it supersede the old covenant as most Christian theologians claim.

JONAH, THE RELUCTANT PROPHET

Instructor: **Rabbi Fabián Werbin**, Wednesday evening



This course will study the text of the *Book of Jonah*, a small biblical book conveying great insight into themes important at Yom Kippur and beyond. We will discuss the true mission of a prophet, the importance of *teshuvah* or repentance, who does the real *teshuvah*, and the silent dialogue between God and Jonah. See why this book was selected as the final Scripture reading of the High Holy Days.

Jonah being swallowed by the fish, *Kennicott Bible* (1476), Digital Bodleian, University of Oxford, Polonsky Foundation Digitization Project, <http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>

SURVEYING THE HISTORY OF JEWISH MUSIC

Instructor: **Hazzan Asa Fradkin**, Wednesday evening

What is Jewish music? What is a traditional melody? The Jews are a people who tell stories through song. Come explore the roots of this musical tradition which stretches back over 2000 years and includes many surprises along the way. Spoiler alert: Did you know Schubert wrote music for the synagogue?



AFTER THE HOLOCAUST: WHAT WAS LOST, WHAT REMAINS

Moderators: **Howard Stein** and **Steve Frank**, Wednesday evening

On December 3, Beth El will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the final deportation of the community that owned its Holocaust *Torah*. To preview the event, this course will discuss the Beth El Holocaust *Torah's* beginnings in the Jewish community of Hermanuv Mestec, a town in the Pardubice Region of the Czech Republic, which can be traced to the 15th Century. We shall learn about the *Torah's* rescue through the renowned Westminster Project that saved almost 1600 Holocaust *Torahs*. We shall also learn about the importance of this *Torah* to Beth El. Additionally, the course will include a wider context to the role of the Holocaust in this background. We shall examine the influence of the music that survived the Czech concentration camp of Terezin (Theresienstadt), and further shall learn something about the Czech Jewish community after the Holocaust under Communism and today. The course will include as well discussions of the importance of historic *Torah* scrolls to Judaism today. Guest speakers will include Rabbi Harris, Hazzan Lubin, and experts on the Czech Jewish community.



Beth El's Holocaust Torah

HISTORY OF ISRAEL FROM INDEPENDENCE THROUGH CAMP DAVID

Instructor: **Eric Gartman**, Wednesday evening



The Palestine Post, May 16, 1948,
newvoices.org

Utilizing first-person accounts from eye witnesses to these events, and contemporaneous illustrations, we will be covering the history of modern Israel from Independence in 1948 through the Camp David Accords in 1978. We will examine critical points during this thirty-year period, such as the emigration from Arab lands, the growth of the Jewish State, and the 1967 and 1973 Wars.

STAR TREK: "TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE"

Instructor: **Adjunct Rabbi David L. Abramson**, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening



Leonard Nimoy as Spock,
startrek.com

"Star Trek," in its many TV and big-screen incarnations, has captured imaginations for more than 50 years. While "Star Trek" is primarily about entertainment, some episodes address important themes – political, cultural, moral, and even spiritual. Join us as we explore selected "Star Trek" episodes that address Jewish spiritual themes. Our exploration might include *yetzer ha-tov* and *yetzer ha-ra* (the "good" and "evil" inclinations), predestination or free will, sins of parents being visited upon children, and seeking meaning in life. No previous background in

Jewish theology or "Star Trek" is required. Fluency in Klingon is not required – though it couldn't hurt!

EARLY ALERT FOR SPRING 2018

Spring semester dates are Tuesday/Wednesday, March 6 and 7 through April 17 and 18 (no classes April 10 and 11).

If you need assistance or special accommodations in order to participate in the Adult Institute, please call 301-652-2606, ext. 349. A member of the Institute Committee will contact you. Designated parking spaces are available for persons with disabilities. Wheelchairs are available at the entrance to Beth El.



INSTRUCTORS



RABBI DAVID L. ABRAMSON, currently serving as an Adjunct Rabbi at Beth El, also works as a chaplain for the Jewish Social Service Agency and at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, and is a teacher at Shoresh Hebrew High School. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) and served in pulpits in Arizona, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Minnesota for twenty-five years. He recently served as Tikvat Israel Congregation's interim rabbi. Rabbi Abramson has taught extensively in adult Jewish education programs as well as in Hebrew high schools and in our Adult Institute.



GIDEON AMIR, born in Holland to Holocaust survivors, grew up in Israel. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Hebrew University and the Weizmann Institute of Science after serving in the military. He has taught extensively at the college level in Israel and in the U.S. He completed a Master's Degree in Judaic Studies at Baltimore Hebrew University. Mr. Amir has been teaching Bible and a variety of Jewish subjects at area synagogues and churches, the Osher Foundation, Oasis, the Melton program and the Foundation for Jewish Studies. He has taught in our Adult Institute.



HAZZAN ASA FRADKIN joined Beth El in July 2017. He was ordained by the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS in May 2007, where he earned the degrees of Hazzan and Masters in Sacred Music. At the Miller School, he was class president and founder and Chair of the School's *Tzedakah* Concert Committee. He holds an undergraduate degree in Vocal Studies with a minor in Jewish Studies from Indiana University's School of Music. At IU, he became actively involved in Hillel and also graduated with a Certificate in Jewish Studies. He previously served as Hazzan at Temple Shalom in Greenwich, CT.



ERIC GARTMAN is the author of *Return to Zion: The History of Modern Israel* (Jewish Publication Society, 2015). He currently works as an intelligence analyst for the Department of Defense. Mr. Gartman did graduate work at the University of Virginia and the National Defense University after studying History as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona. He has lived and studied in Israel and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, and he has taught in our Adult Institute.



RABBI STEVEN M. GLAZER was a pulpit rabbi for 43 years and is currently Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Emeth, Herndon, VA. He was ordained at JTS, and has degrees from Columbia University, JTS, and Hebrew Union College. He is principal at Glazer Consulting, which offers consulting services for seniors, their families, and caregivers. Rabbi Glazer currently serves on the Ethics Com-

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mittee of Inova Fairfax Hospital and the faculty of The Uniformed Services University School of Medicine. A member of Beth El, he has taught at The George Washington, George Mason, and Baltimore Hebrew Universities, the Smithsonian Institution, and our Adult Institute.



RABBI GREGORY HARRIS, Head Rabbi of Beth El, joined the Beth El community in 2002. He was ordained at JTS, where he also received a Master's Degree in Jewish Education. Rabbi Harris received his B.A. in Political Science from The American University. He is a Past President of the Washington Board of Rabbis and teaches throughout the community. Rabbi Harris is the Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Life Communities and a past recipient of the Matthew Simon Rabbinic Award given by the Jewish Federation for leadership in the broader Jewish community. He has taught in our Adult Institute since joining Beth El.



RABBI EVAN KRAME, currently serving as an Adjunct Rabbi at Beth El, was ordained by the *ALEPH* rabbinic program in January, 2015. He has also completed training as a spiritual advisor through the *ALEPH Hashpa'ah* program, developing skills in spiritual direction and engaging adults and seniors. Rabbi Krame, a member of Beth El, has been a service leader and educator throughout the Maryland Jewish community and he has taught in our Adult Institute. His first and continuing career is as an estates and trusts lawyer. He is a graduate of the National Law Center at The George Washington University and holds a Master's Degree in taxation.



HAZZAN ABRAHAM LUBIN, the Hazzan Emeritus of Beth El, continues to be active in the wider Jewish community. He has officiated at High Holiday and other services for the past several years in Cincinnati, Annapolis, and Washington, DC. He is Secretary of the Cantors Assembly Foundation and a past president of the Cantors Assembly. Hazzan Lubin was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree by JTS. He holds a "hazzan" degree from Jews' College, London, and a Master of Music degree from DePaul University. He lectures on Jewish music, and has performed in the U.S., Canada, Israel, Spain, Argentina, and the former Soviet Union. Hazzan Lubin served as editor of *The Journal of Synagogue Music* for ten years. He has taught in our Adult Institute for many years.



RABBI MINDY AVRA PORTNOY, currently serving as an Adjunct Rabbi at Beth El, has been a rabbi with Temple Sinai for 25 years, and is now Rabbi Emerita. She previously was Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at The American University, and an originator and former national co-coordinator of the Women's Rabbinic Network. Rabbi Portnoy, a graduate of Yale University, was ordained in June 1980 by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, where she also received an MA in Hebrew literature. She was among the pioneers for women in the rabbinate. Among her various publications are

five children's books, including *Ima on the Bima: My Mommy is a Rabbi*. She has taught at The American University, in our Adult Institute, in Beth El Sisterhood's *Rosh Chodesh* program, and at other local venues.



RABBI WILLIAM D. RUDOLPH is Rabbi Emeritus of Beth El since 2015, after 32 years of service. He has taught in the Adult Institute since 1983. In his semi-retirement, additional duties include rabbinic leadership for the Fauquier Jewish Congregation, a creative role in the community's new Ramah Day Camp, and serving as President of the Board of the new Jewish Millennial Engagement Project. Rabbi Rudolph received the Matthew Simon Rabbinic Leadership Award from the United Jewish Communities, an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from JTS, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's "Campaigner of the Year" award.



RABBI FABIÁN WERBIN joined Beth El as Associate Rabbi in the summer of 2015. He was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He completed two undergraduate degrees, in Bible and in Jewish Thought, from Haifa University in Israel. He received his rabbinic ordination in 2003 from the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires. Most recently, he served for seven years as Rabbi of Beth Israel Synagogue in Roanoke, Virginia, and he holds certification as an elementary and high school teacher. He has taught in our Adult Institute and is also teaching adult classes in Bible and Introductory Judaism at Beth El.

RABBI SAMUEL SCOLNIC (1923-2012) *z"l* served as Beth El's first full time Rabbi for 32 years, and as Rabbi Emeritus until his death in 2012. He founded the Saul Bendit Adult Institute and taught in the Institute from its inception in the Fall of 1977. The Institute is now known as the Rabbi Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute. Rabbi Scolnic held advanced degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He was the founder and first President of the National Association of Retired Conservative Rabbis. He taught and lectured widely at area synagogues and at the Isaac Frank Jewish Public Library and other venues. Rabbi Scolnic received the Sheva R. and Marver R. Bernstein Master Teacher Award from the Foundation for Jewish Studies.



SAUL BENDIT (1913-1976) *z"l* was a resident of our Washington community for 37 years and an active participant in both Jewish and non-Jewish affairs. He had a deep love for Jewish culture and was very proud of his people and his faith. We are deeply indebted to his late wife Tanya and their family for underwriting the Adult Institute for many years after its inception.

THE RABBI SAMUEL SCOLNIC ADULT INSTITUTE COMMITTEE
FOUNDED IN 1977 IN MEMORY OF SAUL BENDIT

Jack Ventura, Chair
Al Fox, Chair Emeritus z"l

Morley Amsellem	Rhoda Nichaman
Stanley Baldinger	Irwin Pernick
David Florin	Donna Saady
Hazzan Asa Fradkin	Mark Schiffrin
Steven Frank	David Schultz
Judy Gann	Judy Scolnic
Sara Gordon	Howard Stein
Marilyn Hammerman	Ginger Teitel
Rabbi Gregory Harris	Stephanie Ventura
Miriam Israel	Rabbi Fabián Werbin
Rita Kopin	Lew Winarsky

REGISTRATION AND OTHER INFORMATION

DATES FOR FALL TERM: Classes will meet at Beth El on six Tuesday mornings, October 17, 24, and 31, and November 7, 14, and 28; and six Wednesday evenings, October 18 and 25, and November 1, 8, 15, and 29. There are no classes on November 21 and 22. All classrooms are fully accessible by elevator.

REGISTRATION FORM: Please register online at: <http://www.bethelmc.org> or complete and return the form below with your remittance. **Online** registration is available for members and non-members.

REMITTANCE: If registering online, follow payment instructions. If registering by mail, please make check payable to BETH EL.

IMPORTANT: FOR EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT, PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED EITHER ONLINE, BY MAIL, OR HAND-CARRIED TO THE BETH EL OFFICE, BY OCTOBER 3.

Advance registration helps to ensure that:

- The course you want will have sufficient enrollment.
- Classrooms of adequate size will be assigned for your course.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE of the courses for which you register; registration acknowledgments are not sent.

MINIMUM REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT: Ten students.

IF WEATHER IS SEVERE: Classes will not meet when Montgomery County Schools are closed because of inclement weather. Information on Rabbi Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute closing will be available on a taped message after 7 AM for Tuesday classes and after 5 PM for Wednesday classes; call 301-652-2606. As soon as the message starts, press "3" to retrieve closing information.

THE EVENING MINYAN WILL START AT 8:20 PM (rather than 8:00) on evenings when Institute classes are scheduled.

QUESTIONS? Call 301-652-2606, Ext. 349, or send an email to samuelscolnic@bethelmc.org.

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COURSE FEE INFORMATION—

Early Bird registration – payment must be received by October 3, 2017:

Wednesday evening classes:

- Each 6-week, 50-minute course.....\$40/member; \$50/nonmember

Tuesday morning classes:

- Each 6-week, 50-minute course (or five 1-hour sessions)...\$35/member; \$45/nonmember

Regular registration – payment received on October 4 or later:

Wednesday evening classes:

- Each 6-week, 50-minute course\$45/member; \$55/nonmember

Tuesday morning classes:

- Each 6-week, 50-minute course (or five 1-hour sessions)...\$40/member; \$50/nonmember

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER ONLINE OR COMPLETE THIS FORM — *PLEASE PRINT*

Registrant(s) home address:

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____ - _____

Home Phone _____

Please register me (us) for the following course(s)

1. Registrant's name _____ Beth El member? _____

Course(s) Tues, AM _____ \$ _____

Tues, AM _____ \$ _____

Wed, PM _____ \$ _____

Wed, PM _____ \$ _____

For urgent class information: E-mail _____

Phone: _____

2. Registrant's name _____ Beth El member? _____

Course(s) Tues, AM _____ \$ _____

Tues, AM _____ \$ _____

Wed, PM _____ \$ _____

Wed, PM _____ \$ _____

For urgent class information: E-mail _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is a check, payable to BETH EL, for a total of: \$ _____

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REMINDER! Classes begin Tuesday and Wednesday, OCTOBER 17 AND 18.

