



# Institute for Adult Jewish Studies

## *Sponsoring Congregations*

*Congregation L'Dor V'Dor  
Jericho Jewish Center  
Manetto Hill Jewish Center  
Midway Jewish Center*

*North Shore Synagogue  
Plainview Jewish Center  
Temple Beth Torah*

*Temple Chaverim  
Temple Or Elohim  
Woodbury Jewish Center*

## **PROGRAM 2019–2020 • ACADEMIC YEAR 5780**

**Fall Session: Woodbury Jewish Center**, 200 South Woods Road, Woodbury, NY 11797  
516-496-9100

Opening Lecture: Monday, October 28, 2019 at 9 PM. *No classes scheduled that day.*  
Classes run November 4 through December 16, 7:45 PM to 8:45 PM, preceding each lecture.

***Refreshments following lectures donated by ShopRite of Plainview***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Title</i>
October 28	Mark Hochberg	The Scandalous Voyage of the British Transport Ship Dunera and the Internment of German Jewish Refugees in Australia During World War II
November 4	Dr. Jud Newborn	Lions of Judah: The Complete Unsung Story of Jewish Anti-Nazi Resistance and Its Indispensable Lessons in Courage for Today
November 11	Benjamin Nelson	Mel Brooks—Tasteless and Terrific
November 18	Dr. Karen Stern	Ancient Jewish Graffiti in and Around the Mediterranean Basin
November 25	Dr. Lisa Young	Living to 120 on the Jewish Diet
December 2	Rabbi Dr. Shaul Magid	Are Jews White and Does That Matter?
December 9	Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer	My People Were Refugees Too: The Global Refugee Crisis Through a Jewish Lens
December 16	Dr. David Podles	The Jewish Holidays: A Musical Introspective

## **Winter Session**

**Jews in American Comedy  
by John Kenrick**

**Manetto Hill Jewish Center**, 244 Manetto Hill Road, Plainview, NY 11803, 516-935-5454

**Programs at 8 PM, Mondays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27**

No additional charge for those registered for the Fall Session.  
If not registered for the Fall Session: Each lecture \$5, or \$15 for all four.

January 6  
January 13  
January 20  
January 27

Sid Caesar  
Danny Kaye  
Joan Rivers  
Neil Simon

# Fall Session Lectures

**October 28 – Mark Hochberg**

***The Scandalous Voyage of the British Transport Ship Dunera and the Internment of German Jewish Refugees in Australia During World War II***

**Mark Hochberg** is an attorney with offices in Huntington and New York City. He is a long-time member of Plainview Jewish Center, where he was president of the Men's Club and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. His father, uncle and grandfather were all reluctant passengers on the Dunera.

**November 4 – Jud Newborn, Ph.D.**

***Lions of Judah: The Complete Unsung Story of Jewish Anti-Nazi Resistance and Its Indispensable Lessons in Courage for Today***

**Jud Newborn** is an author, lecturer and expert on anti-Semitism, extremism and the fight for human rights worldwide. He is the founding historian and co-creator of The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Dr. Newborn lectures within the U.S. and internationally on these topics and is an expert on the life of Anne Frank. Newborn's book *Sophie Scholl* and the *White Rose* (about a student-led anti-Nazi resistance group and its activities) has been issued in a third, special 75th Anniversary Edition. He is presently the curator/producer of Special Guest Programs at the Huntington Cinema Arts Centre. Dr. Newborn was awarded his Ph.D. with Distinction by the University of Chicago.

**November 11 – Professor Benjamin Nelson**

***Mel Brooks—Tasteless and Terrific***

**Benjamin Nelson** returns for a fourth appearance at the IAJS. He holds the title of professor emeritus of English and Comparative Literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University from which he received the Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching. He has taught a vast array of courses, including American Jewish Literature, Israeli Literature, Literature of the Holocaust, and Ethnic Literature in America. Professor Nelson is the author of critical biographies of two leading American dramatists: *Tennessee Williams: The Man and His Work* and *Arthur Miller: Portrait of a Playwright*. He has also published articles on theater and film, including an essay on Hollywood's treatment of the Holocaust. Professor Nelson received his B.A. and M.F.A. from Columbia University.

**November 18 – Professor Karen Stern**

***Ancient Jewish Graffiti in and Around the Mediterranean Basin***

**Professor Karen Stern** earned her Ph.D. in religious studies from Brown University. She is an associate professor of History at Brooklyn College, conducting research across disciplines of archaeology, history and religion. Professor Stern teaches courses on the Mediterranean cultural history of Jews in the Greek and Roman worlds. She has also taught at Dartmouth College, the University of Southern California and Brown University. Professor Stern has been invited to speak at Tel Aviv University, Boston University, Oxford University and Columbia University among others. She has conducted field research throughout the Mediterranean, having excavated in Jordan, Israel and Greece. Professor Stern's recent book *Writing on the Wall: Graffiti and the Forgotten Jews of Antiquity* considers ancient graffiti and the daily lives of the Jewish population in late antiquity.

**November 25 – Dr. Lisa Young**

***Living to 120 on the Jewish Diet***

**Lisa R. Young, Ph.D., RDN, CDN**, is an internationally recognized nutritionist, portion-size expert and adjunct professor of nutrition at New York University. Dr. Young is the author of *Finally Full, Finally Slim: 30 Days to Permanent Weight Loss One Portion at a Time* (Center Street/Hachette, 2019) and *The Portion Teller Plan* (Crown/Random House, 2006) and is regularly called upon by major media outlets as an authority on nutrition and health. She has been counseling clients for more than 20 years, blogs at [www.drlisayoung.com](http://www.drlisayoung.com) and inspires her community to make healthy food and lifestyle choices.

**December 2 – Rabbi Dr. Shaul Magid**

***Are Jews White and Does That Matter?***

**Shaul Magid** is the Distinguished Fellow in Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, Senior Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and rabbi of the Fire Island Synagogue. From 2004–2018 he was a professor of religious studies and the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair of Jewish Studies in Modern Judaism at Indiana University. From 1996–2004, he served as a professor of Jewish philosophy at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was chair of the Department of Jewish Philosophy. His latest two books are *The Bible, the Talmud, and the New Testament: Elijah Zvi Soloveitchik's Commentary to the Gospels*, and *Piety and Rebellion: Essays in Hasidism*. He is currently writing a cultural biography of Meir Kahane.

**December 9 – Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer**

***My People Were Refugees Too: The Global Refugee Crisis Through a Jewish Lens***

A graduate of Columbia University, Rabbi **Rachel Grant Meyer** was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She currently serves as rabbi-in-residence at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), where she develops educational materials, resources, and programs that educate American Jews about refugee issues, connecting the plight of contemporary refugees to Jewish values and history. Before joining HIAS, Rabbi Meyer served as assistant rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in New York City. Her writing has been featured in the *Forward* and she is the author of an essay that appears in the book *Seven Days, Many Voices: Insights Into the Biblical Story of Creation*.

**December 16 – Dr. David Podles**

***The Jewish Holidays: A Musical Introspective***

An acclaimed international concert violinist from Riga, Latvia, **Dr. Podles** received a Ph.D. in Music from the Conservatory in Riga and is laureate of three prestigious international competitions. He has performed as a soloist and in symphony and chamber orchestras, in opera and ballet theaters and on tour throughout Europe and across Russia, including at the Bolshoi and Kirov. In the U.S., he has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, 92nd Street Y and Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center. This is his second performance at the IAJS.

## Winter Session

***Jews in American Comedy***

**January 6, 13, 20, 27 – John Kenrick**

**John Kenrick** is an author, teacher and theater and film historian. He teaches musical theater history at New York University's Steinhardt School, the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and the New School in NY. Mr. Kenrick is a frequent lecturer on theater and film history. His 2008 book *Musical Theatre: A History* is a comprehensive history of musical theater from ancient times to the present. Mr. Kenrick is also the curator of the musical theater and film website [Musicals101.com](http://Musicals101.com), the Cyber Encyclopedia of Musical Theatre, TV and Film.

## Fall Session Classes:

Each course listed below meets for 7 weeks from 7:45 to 8:45 on consecutive Monday evenings from November 4 through December 16 at Woodbury Jewish Center. Register for one course only. You may use the form on the attached flap to register by mail or you can register in person on October 28 or November 4 (between 7:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.)

### Course #1 • The Contemporary Israeli Short Story – Part 2

*Instructor:* Rabbi Steven Conn, Plainview Jewish Center

The Israeli short story is one of the best tools for understanding the culture, history and people of Israel today. Last year we studied the works of Israeli writers published prior to 1975. This year we will continue our journey, reading stories by contemporary writers such as David Grossman, Etgar Keret, Nir Baram and Sayed Kashua, who have expanded the scope of Israeli fiction to include different styles and more diverse points of view. These stories will help us better understand the unique challenges facing Israel today and the many different kinds of Israelis who share the land. Each week participants will be given a new story to read at home that will be discussed in class the following week. All materials will be provided to students in translation (when possible, Hebrew versions will be provided as well). **Reading before class is a must.** Attendance in last year's class is not a prerequisite for this course. All are welcome for what is sure to be an enlightening discussion of great works of contemporary literature and the land and people they represent.

### Course #2 • God: Is Faith a Leap or a Logical Conclusion?

*Instructor:* Rabbi Jason Fruithandler  
Woodbury Jewish Center

Is belief an answer to all problems or an ongoing struggle? When we pray, who answers? In our class we will look at different approaches to the Creator of All. Each week we will take a different approach, trying to see *hakadosh baruch hu* through a different lens. We will challenge ourselves to expand our ideas of what might actually be Divine.

### Course #3 • "If You Were the Pope of the Jews..."

*Instructor:* Rabbi Michael Katz  
Temple Beth Torah of Westbury

If you had the authority to remove or revise aspects of Jewish life, what changes would you make? Reconsidering: *Bris Milah, Bar Mitzvahs, Weddings, Funerals, Yom Kippur, Passover, Hanukkah, the Synagogue Service.*

### Course #4 • The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice

*Instructor:* Rabbi Joel M. Levenson, Midway Jewish Center

From political and financial scandals to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of ethical and moral concern. Now more than ever, we require a solid understanding of how Jewish ethics can inform our discussions and decisions about the critical questions of the day. Judaism has a long history of wrestling with moral questions, responding to them in a way that considers all sides of an issue.

### Course #5 • Daf Shevu'i: This Week's Page of Talmud, Sanhedrin 59-65

*Instructor:* Rabbi Rafi Rank, Midway Jewish Center

The study of Talmud is one of the most satisfying and enlightening exercises in the expression of Jewish identity. The Talmud was composed between the first and fifth centuries CE, and is a record of the observations, reflections and discussions of the rabbis who sought to create a vibrant and enduring Judaism. It has been a closed book to many who have had no access to a traditional yeshiva (Jewish school of learning) or a rabbi whose expertise lay in deciphering the Talmud's somewhat enigmatic and sometimes arcane commentaries. Today, with the advent of superior translations and contemporary commentaries, the study of Talmud has become vastly more accessible. Students will be asked to purchase the second volume of Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz's Noé Edition of the Koren Talmud Bavli, volume Sanhedrin Part Two. The class will focus on pages 59-65, studying only one page per week as is the structure of the *Daf Shevu'i* program. If you have a Talmud background, and are accustomed to studying every word on the page, this course will proceed in a radically different manner. Each week, we will zero in on the big ideas on each page. A knowledge of Hebrew is helpful but not necessary. All that is required is an open mind and a willingness to engage in some fascinating discussions about what it means to be Jewish, human, moral and holy.

### Course #6 • Hebrew Poetry From the Bible Up to the Founding of the State of Israel

*Instructor:* Rabbi Judith Cohen-Rosenberg  
Temple Or Elohim

Join in an exploration of poetry originally written in Hebrew—before the founding of Israel. We will begin our journey with the Bible and conclude with those who wrote just as the state was being created. Along the way, we will encounter some authors who might be familiar to us, such as Bialik, Senesh and Rahel. Knowledge of Hebrew (while always helpful) is not necessary. All works will be presented in translation.

### Course #7 • Israeli Folk and International Dancing

*Instructor:* Devorah Cohen-Keynan

# INSTITUTE FOR ADULT JEWISH STUDIES

Arlene Kleinstein, JJC, Director

## Steering Committee

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Dr. Elliot T. Udell  
Carole Wolfner, NSS  
Elliot Zolin, TBT

[www.iajs.org](http://www.iajs.org)

## SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS

### Congregation L'Dor V'Dor (CLDVD)

11 Temple Lane  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771  
516-470-1700  
Rabbi Steven Moskowitz  
Cantorial Soloist Talya Smilowitz  
President: Lisa Weiner

### Jericho Jewish Center (JJC)

430 North Broadway  
Jericho, NY 11753  
516-938-2540  
Rabbi Matthew Abelson  
President: Jay Sherman

### Manetto Hill Jewish Center (MHJC)

244 Manetto Hill Road  
Plainview, NY 11803  
516-935-5454  
Rabbi Neil Schuman  
President: Michael Dashow

### Midway Jewish Center (MJC)

330 South Oyster Bay Road  
Syosset, NY 11791  
516-938-8390  
Rabbi Perry Raphael Rank  
Associate Rabbi Joel Levenson  
Cantor Adam Frei  
President: Michael Schlank

### North Shore Synagogue (NSS)

83 Muttontown Road  
Syosset, NY 11791  
516-921-2282  
Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet  
Cantor Mariel Ashkenazy  
President: Larry Henin

### Plainview Jewish Center (PJC)

95 Floral Drive  
Plainview, NY 11803  
516-938-8610  
Rabbi Steven Conn  
Cantor Judith Berkson  
President: Michael Portnoy

### Temple Beth Torah (TBT)

243 Cantiague Rock Road  
Westbury, NY 11590  
516-334-7979  
Rabbi Michael Katz  
Cantor Carol Chesler  
President: Andrea Marshall

### Temple Chaverim (TC)

1050 Washington Avenue  
Plainview, NY 11803  
516-367-6100  
Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller  
Assistant Rabbi Debra Bennet  
Cantor Bradley Hyman  
President: Russell Willens

### Temple Or Elohim (TOE)

18 Tobie Lane  
Jericho, NY 11753  
516-433-9888  
Rabbi Judith Cohen Rosenberg  
Cantor David Katz  
President: Howard Pastolove

### Woodbury Jewish Center (WJC)

200 South Woods Road  
Woodbury, NY 11797  
516-496-9100  
Rabbi Jason Fruithandler  
Cantor Aaron Cohen  
President: Laury Weber