

# ***JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES***

Fall/Winter 5762/2001-2002



*Judaism transcends the boundaries of time and place through continuous Jewish activities.*

*The three Jewish congregations of Oak Park and River Forest invite you to explore your religious and cultural heritage. Please choose among these Jewish activities offerings of Hebrew language, classic texts, Jewish history, music, fine arts, film and much more.*

*Expand your Jewish knowledge by participating in these many opportunities for Jewish inquiry, discussion and personal growth.*

**WEST SUBURBAN TEMPLE HAR ZION (WST)**

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[gwainer@mediaone.net](mailto:gwainer@mediaone.net)

Adult Education Committee:

Michael Fleisher, Chairman

Mike Bass, Mameloshn, Liaison for CAJE, CFJE

Maurie Stern, Holiday Coordinator, Religious-Nursery School Co-coordinator

Kris Litman, Hebrew Coordinator, Religious-Nursery School Co-coordinator

Outreach Committee

Nancy and Matt Tushman

Social Action Committee

**SHIR AMI (SA)**

124 NORTH KENILWORTH  
OAK PARK, IL 60302

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# LECTURES

## **Fall Series on Israeli-Palestinian Relations**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Wednesday Evening, October 3, 2001, 7:00-8:00 pm

Speaker: Chaya Gil

Chaya Gil was born in Haifa, Israel. She earned her B.A. degree in Political Science, History and Education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and after moving to the U.S. she received her law degree from Northern Illinois University. For the last 20 years, she has been a trial attorney, first for the City of Chicago and then the Chicago Board of Education. She is regional president of ARZA/World Union and also serves on the Executive Committee of the national board of ARZA/World Union and co-chairs the Israel Advocacy Committee. She is also a vice president of American Jewish Committee, Chicago Chapter, where she chairs the "Israel Update" seminar series. In addition, Chaya Gil co-chairs the Israel and International Commission of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Chicago Metropolitan. In 1997, Ms. Gil served as a delegate of ARZA to the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem. She is a member of the General Zionist Council, the governing body of the World Congress.

## **Dealing With Our Parents' Aging, Dying and Death" Series**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday, October 14, 2001

Speaker: Meg McClaskey, Chaplain and Head of Medical Ethics at Rush North Shore and serves as a leader of several organizations concerned with medical ethics and chaplaincy.

Meg will begin with a discussion of dealing with our parents' aging. How much should we do for them vs. encouraging them to do for themselves? How involved should we be in assuring that their financial affairs are in order? Should we make sure we know their wishes regarding end of life issues, funeral, etc.? How best to cope with some of the common feelings people have about their parents again?

## **SUNDAY MORNING LECTURE**

### **The Fixman Lecture, in Memory of Isadore and Fannabel Fixman**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, October 14, 10:10 am brunch, lecture at 10:30 am

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch.

Rabbi Matthew Futterman's lecture topic: Does the Mezuzah Have Magical Powers? A Case Study in Jewish Magic...As It Is Misunderstood.

# LECTURES

## **Fall Series on Israeli-Palestinian Relations**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Wednesday, October 17, 2001, 7:00-8:00pm

Speaker: Cindy Levitt

Cindy Levitt is an anti-racist/multicultural educator with over 28 years of experience within educational, human relations and social justice environments. She developed and teaches a class for North Park University, Social and Cultural Diversity, in their school of education. Cindy has lived in Evanston, Illinois for the past 24 years (originally from St. Louis) and has been active in the community, the schools, and the human relations commission. Additionally, she has been involved in Beth Emet Synagogue's social action committee where she organized a panel discussion last fall on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict attended by over 100 people. For the past 6 years, she helped organize the broad-based organization, United Power for Action and Justice. Currently Cindy is organizer/coordinator for Not in my Name and was on the organizing committee for the Jewish Unity for A Just Peace conference held in Chicago May 4-6, 2001. The conference brought together over 175 activists from the international community committed to working together to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Cindy has an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and a Master of Education degree from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

## **Dealing With Our Parents' Aging, Dying and Death" Series**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Morning, October 21, 2001, 10:30 am-Noon

Speaker: Meg McClaskey, Chaplain and Head of Medical Ethics at Rush North Shore and serves as a leader of several organizations concerned with medical ethics and chaplaincy.

## **Jewish Funerals and Mourning**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Morning, October 28, 2001, 10:30 am-Noon

Speaker: Dave Jacobson, Chicago Jewish Funerals

# LECTURES

## **Rabbi Gerson's Academy Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, November 4, 2001; November 18, 2001, December 2, 2001; December 9, 2001; December 16, 2001; January 6, 2002; January 13, 2002; January 20, 2002 and January 27, 2002

Speaker: Rabbi Gary Gerson

## **A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF JEWISH THOUGHT AND PRACTICE**

Beginning on Sunday morning, November 4, Rabbi Gerson will once again offer his Academy, an introductory program of study in Jewish thought and practice. Whether you have little to no background in Judaism, or have a more extensive background, but wish a comprehensive understanding that "puts it all together", this program should suit your needs.

The Academy will be offered on Sunday mornings, between 10:45 and 11:45, beginning on November 4. While the total Academy extends over several years, culminating in the awarding of a certificate for those completing the program, each Sunday session will be a discrete lecture-discussion. For this coming year, the Academy will provide an overview of Basic Judaism, based on Rabbi Milton Steinberg's classic work of the same name.

## **Bereavement Workshop with Rabbi Victor Mirelman and Robyn Seidman**

### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday November 11, 10:00 am brunch, lecture at 10:30 am

Psychologist Robyn Seidman and Rabbi Mirelman discuss how to handle the process of mourning and bereavement and the role that Jewish customs and traditions play in coping with loss.

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch.

## **Fall Series on Israeli-Palestinian Relations**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Wednesday Evening, November 14, 2001, 7:00-8:00 pm

Speaker: Erik Unger

## LECTURES

Erik Unger is a Chicago-based photojournalist who has been published in several publications worldwide including the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, New York Post and the London Times. He has traveled to more than 11 countries including Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Italy, Spain, Morocco and most recently to the Middle East where he worked for the Chicago Tribune and the London Daily Telegraph in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### **“Prayball! The Spiritual Insights of a Jewish Sports Fan”**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday December 2, 2001 10:00 am brunch, lecture at 10:30 am

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch.

Rabbi James Gordon

### **Oriental Jewry Program**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday December 16, 2001 10:15 am brunch, e at 10:30 am

Come and hear personal remarks by our own temple members about the difficulties and joys of growing up Jewish in Muslim countries. Panel to be announced.

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch

### **Rabbi Mirelman’s Winter Lecture Series entitled “Conservative Judaism: the First Century”**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, January 20, 2002 – Solomon Schechter Comes to America

Sunday, January 27, 2002 – Abraham Joshua Heschel: An Ember Rescued from the Fire

Sunday, February 3, 2002 – Cohen & Schorsh: The Transformation of the Movement

Sunday, February 10, 2002 – A Look at the Future

10:15 am brunch, lecture at 10:30 am

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch

## **OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

### **Interfaith Outreach Discussion Group with Rabbi Victor A. Mirelman West Suburban Temple**

Saturday, October 27 after services and Kiddush – approx. 12:30 in the chapel

Join Rabbi Mirelman for this continuing discussion of the unique needs and challenges of interfaith relationships. Couples in interfaith relationships, converts to Judaism, and their families are encouraged to attend.

### **Learner's Shabbat Service Oak Park Temple**

Friday Evening, November 9, 2001, 7:30 pm

The Rabbi will lead a Shabbat service highlighting and explaining the key elements of the service with the intent to teach all those who are interested, and to make them more comfortable in participating in future Shabbat services.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Program Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Morning, November 18, 2001 9:00 am

This annual meeting lead by our Cantor for the parents of intended Bar/Bat Mitzvah students for the coming year will include explanations of how the non-Jewish parent and extended non-Jewish families of our interfaith families can still participate in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah services.

### **Interfaith Families Teen Panel Oak Park Temple**

Saturday Evening, February 9, 2001, 6:30 pm

A brief Havdalah service will start this event for parents and teens of interfaith families where our teens will be the featured “experts” as to how to successfully raise Jewish kids in interfaith families.

### **Shabbat Across America Oak Park Temple**

Friday Evening, March 8, 2002, 6:00 pm

Once again Oak Park Temple will participate in this annual, national event which challenges us to invite non-members, non-affiliated Jews, and non-



## HOLIDAYS

### **High Holiday Workshop**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, September 9, 2001, 10:00 am

Join Rabbi Victor Mirelman and Cantor Stuart Figa for a workshop on the liturgy, customs, and music of the High Holy Days.

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| September 17, 2001 | Rosh Hashanah |
| September 26, 2001 | Yom Kippur    |
| October 3, 2001    | Succoth       |
| October 7, 2001    | Columbus Day  |

### **Women's Progressive Sukkah Luncheon**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Thursday, October 4, 2001, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sponsored by the women of WST, OPT, and Shir Ami. Three Sukkah, three courses.

If you're interested and/or would like to volunteer your Sukkah, please call Fay Bomberg at 708-488-9884.

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| November 22, 2001    | Thanksgiving |
| December 10-17, 2001 | Hanukkah     |

## **MUSIC AND ART**

### **Fourth Annual Cantor Harold Brindell Memorial Concert West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, October 21, 2001 3:00 pm.

WST welcomes the Chicago Chamber Orchestra. Started by Dieter Kober, who left Germany just before WWII, the orchestra has been a Chicago institution for 50 years.

Admission is free.

### **Tallit Making Oak Park Temple**

Dolores Shore is a master tallit maker and she'll help you get started on your own. Call her at 708-848-2278 for information and the next meeting date.

### **My Favorite Jewish CD Oak Park Temple**

Share and discuss Jewish music. Call Roger Gilman at 708-386-3388 for further details. Meetings are at members' homes once a month.

## **COURSES**

### **(The Not So) Basic Judaism Discussion Group with Rabbi Victor Mirelman**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Alternate Saturdays, continuing September 22, 2001, 9:15 am – 10:00 am

Informal sessions conducted by Rabbi Mirelman explore a broad range of topics that include Jewish life-cycle events, Jewish holidays and observance, Jewish history and thought, and issues in contemporary Jewish life. Those attending classes come from a wide spectrum of Jewish education and observance. New participants are always welcome.

### **Sunday Night Talmud**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

One or two Sundays a month.

### **Dawn Schuman Institute of Jewish Studies**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Thursday Evenings: November 15 & 29, 2001

Thursday Evenings: December 6 & 13, 2001

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Rabbi Michael J. Schorin,

### **"Minyan: Ten Practices for Revitalizing Your Judaism"**

This interactive and experiential course will challenge you to re-think and reconsider your practice of Judaism. Based upon the teachings of Rabbi Rami Shapiro, as outlined in his book *Minyan*, we will discuss practices ranging from chanting and meditation to dream interpretation and eco-kashrut.

Reading Assignment: "Minyan: Ten Principles for Living a Life of Integrity", by Rabbi M. Shapiro. New York: Belltower, 1997. (Paperback edition, approximately \$14.)

\$40 for the series or \$10 per session for OPT and WST members.

\$80 for the series or \$15 per session for non-members.

# **HEBREW LANGUAGE**

## **Hebrew Reading Crash Course**

### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, September 9, 2001, 9:30 am

This course is designed to teach those with no basic knowledge of Hebrew. Learn the alphabet and basic reading skills. Those who complete the course will be able to read Hebrew and gain a rudimentary understanding of the prayers in their original language.

**PLEASE NOTE: All Oak Park Temple Hebrew and Cantillation classes will start after the High Holidays and last for about 25 weeks.**

## **Basic Hebrew**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, 10:30-11:30 am

Teacher: Kris Littman

Fee: \$50.00

Basic Hebrew is a class for those familiar with the alphabet. Its primary focus is to develop reading skills. In the process you will become familiar with some of the most common prayers. This class is recommended for anyone regardless of whether you want to study Prayerbook, Biblical or Conversational Hebrew. This class is designed to respond to specific individual needs.

## **Prayerbook Hebrew**

### **Oak Park Temple**

Monday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm

Teacher: Amir Sumakai Fink

Fee: \$100.00 + book ("Prayerbook Hebrew, The Easy Way")

Prayerbook Hebrew is a two year course (basic and advanced level), and this year the advanced level will be taught. The course includes basic Hebrew grammar. Generally, this course is taken before Biblical Hebrew, since it moves slowly through grammatical concepts and since the text is often familiar. If you are new to Hebrew, we recommend studying the books in this order. It is not, however, a prerequisite to take this course before Biblical Hebrew.

## HEBREW LANGUAGE

Fee: \$100.00 + book (TBA)

Conversational Hebrew is a new class offered this year. Reading skills and knowledge of basic grammar are required. We hope that this class will attract a wide range of ages, and especially provide an opportunity for further study for young adults who have finished their studies at the temple and who might hunger for more.

### **Biblical Hebrew Oak Park Temple**

Monday Evenings, 8:30-9:30 pm  
Teacher: Amir Sumakai Fink

Fee: \$100.00 + book ("The First Hebrew Primer")

Biblical Hebrew is a four year course using two sequential books. This year the advanced level of the first book will be taught. One part of the teaching will be on The Book of Ruth. This course includes extensive Hebrew grammar. (We hope to offer basic level, first book, next fall).

### **Cantillation, Basic Level: Torah Tropes Oak Park Temple**

Monday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Teacher: Cantor Julie Green

Fee: \$100.00 + book

Requires reading ability. You will learn tropes used for chanting the *Five Books of Moses*.

### **Cantillation, Advanced Level: Torah Tropes for Song of Songs, the Book of Ruth, and Ecclesiastes Oak Park Temple**

Monday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Teacher: Cantor Julie Green

Fee: \$100.00 + book

This year three of the five Scrolls (Megillot) will be taught. The same tropes are used for all three of them.

## **JEWISH TEXT**

### **Torah Study Group I**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, 9:30

This group has been meeting for 20 years. Members use various translations of the Bible and do close text reading in English. All are welcome to attend. Hebrew is not required. For further information, contact Judy Gross, 708-383-0063.

### **Torah Study In Hebrew**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, 10:30 am

Call Mark Burger, 708-524-1466, for further details

### **“Half Torah” Study Group**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 am

Discussion is informal and often includes social, political, historical, and cultural contexts of Biblical writings. Anyone can join in. For further information, contact Michael Fleisher, 708-383-4620 or Roger Gilman, 708-386-3388.

### **Torah III**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Mornings, 9:30

This study group is over two years old and welcomes new members. We are studying the portion of the week in English, reading aloud from several translations and discussing the text. For further information, contact T.Q. White, 708-848-5799.

### **Shir Ami Torah Study**

Shabbat Afternoon, 3:00 pm, every other week at the homes of Shir Ami members.

The group, which has been meeting for more than seven years, moves slowly through text. Word by word, line by line; here a little, there a little, precept by precept

## **JEWISH TEXT**

### **Sunday Night Talmud**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

One or two Sundays a month.

This group meets in members' homes to study the Steinsaltz Edition of the Talmud. Newcomers are welcome. This class is lay led. For further information contact, Mark Burger, 708-524-1466.

### **Jewish Book Discussion Group**

#### **Oak Park Temple**

Meets in members' homes every other month on Sunday evenings. Books range from theology to thrillers, Jewish content. We also study Reform leader Rabbi Yoffie's book recommendations. For further information, contact Lauren Levrant, 708-524-8240.

### **Kabbalah**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday evenings at the home of Dr. Allan Lerner, 7:30 – 8:30 pm

As an offshoot of interests developed in Talmud study, this class deals with Jewish mystical literature. The Kabbalah class reads the classic medieval text of Jewish mysticism, the Zohar, in English. Some background reading is recommended, but it can be done while attending the class.

### **Saturday Afternoon Talmud**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Saturday afternoons continuing September 22, 2001, 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Leader: Dr. Allan Lerner

The class will continue to study Tractate using the ArtScroll edition of the translation. This class has been meeting for 10 years. However, newcomers are always welcome and the group will bring those willing to make the effort up to speed.

### **Rabbi Mirelman's Bible Class**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Tuesday mornings, starting October 16, 2001, 10:30 am

## **JEWISH TEXT**

### **Rabbi Mirelman's Talmud Class**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Wednesday afternoons, starting October 17, 2001, 4:00 pm

The class will continue to study Tractate Gitten using the ArtScroll edition of the translation. No previous knowledge needed. An excellent opportunity to explore this great work of Jewish genius.

### **Marcia Shriner Book Review**

#### **West Suburban Temple**

Sunday, October 21, 10:00 am brunch, lecture at 10:30 am

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch.

Rabbi Victor Mirelman reviews "Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews: A History" by James Carroll. *Constantine's Sword* is a sprawling work of history, theology, and personal confession by James Carroll (the author of [An American Requiem](#), among many other books).



## FILMS

### **West Suburban Temple Film Series in Memory of Henry Stern West Suburban Temple**

Saturday, November 3, 2001 – “Kippur” (directed by Amos Gitai)

This is his personal and gripping depiction of war in all of its horror and chaos. Based on the director’s personal experience of the ‘73 Yom Kippur war, he looks at the emotion and practical realities of combat seen through the eyes of reservist soldiers. It has been called Israel’s own “Saving Private Ryan”. (Hebrew with subtitles)

5:00 pm – Come daven Ma’ariv, do Havdalah, and eat a deli dinner before the show.

6:00 pm – Movie begins

### **West Suburban Temple Film Series in Memory of Henry Stern West Suburban Temple**

January 19, 2001 – “Kaddosh” (directed by Amos Gitai).

The film is a protest against the religious right and its treatment of women. Though fiction, it is an almost anthropological investigation into how extremism and patriarchal repression interfere in people’s lives. (Hebrew with subtitles)

5:00 pm – Come daven Ma’ariv, do Havdalah, and eat a deli dinner before the show.

6:00 pm – Movie begins

### **West Suburban Temple Film Series in Memory of Henry Stern West Suburban Temple**

Saturday, March 2, 2001 – “Hide and Seek” (directed by Iris Rubin)

Three women, confined by life in a traditional Sephardic community, discover fulfillment and joy at a drama workshop held at their local community center. Their transition is accompanied by inner doubts and struggles with their husbands who are forced to confront their newly independent wives.

6:00 pm – Come daven Ma’ariv, do Havdalah, and eat a deli dinner before the show.

7:00 pm – Movie begins

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Rabbi Mirelman's Winter Lecture Series entitled "Conservative Judaism: the First Century"**  
**West Suburban Temple**

Solomon Schechter Comes to America  
Sunday, January 13, 2002

Abraham Joshua Heschel: An Ember Rescued from the Fire.  
Sunday, January 20, 2002

Cohen & Schorsch: The Transformation of the Movement  
Sunday, January 29, 2002

A look at the Future  
Sunday, February 3, 2002, 10:00 am brunch and lecture

Admission is free. There is a \$7.00 charge for brunch

**Jewish Parenting Series**  
**Oak Park Temple**

February 3, 2002  
February 11, 2002  
February 17, 2002  
February 25, 2002

**Rabbi Gerson's Academy**  
**Oak Park Temple**

Sunday Morning, March 3, 2002  
Sunday Morning, March 10, 2002  
Sunday Morning, April 7, 2002  
Sunday Morning, April 21, 2002  
Speaker: Rabbi Gary Gerson

**TANYA, THE MYSTIC TEACHINGS OF THE LUBAVITCHER HASIDIM**

Beginning on Sunday morning, March 3, Rabbi Gerson will offer a 5 week text-based study of the teachings of the Lubavitcher Hasidim. Drawing on the Tanya of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Lyady, the founder of the Lubavitcher sect, this course will focus on the mystical psychology that is the foundation of the Kabbalistic tradition in Judaism. Materials will be provided at the first class session.

## SERVICES

### OAK PARK TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM ZION

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shabbat Services                      | Friday Evening, 8:15 pm    |
| Family Service (monthly)              | Friday Evening, 7:30 pm    |
| Shabbat Services (call Temple office) | Saturday Morning, 10:00 am |
| Sunday Morning Minyan:                | Sunday Morning, 9:00 am    |

### WEST SUBURBAN TEMPLE HAR ZION

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Shohet Daily Minyan | Monday & Thursday,<br>7:30 am<br>Tuesday, Wednesday &<br>Friday, 7:45 am<br>Sunday, 9:30 am |
| Shabbat Services    | Friday Evening, 6:30 pm<br>Saturday Morning, 10:00 am                                       |

### SHIR AMI

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Shabbat Services | Saturday Morning, 10:00 am<br>Gale House |
|------------------|--|

