



SHIR AMI
Many voices. *One song.*

LIFELONG LEARNING 5772 • 2011-2012



SHIR AMI

101 RICHBORO ROAD • NEWTOWN, PA 18940
(215) 968-3400 • WWW.SHIRAMINOW.ORG

**The Lifelong Learning Committee and clergy of Shir Ami
invite you to be inspired and rekindle your knowledge
and love for Jewish learning.**

Our programs are offered to strengthen our ties
to fellow congregants, our community, and our synagogue
and to encourage us
to learn and grow.

Please join us for any or all of our programs.
We look forward to learning together!

ADULT BAR OR BAT MITZVAH

One year CAN change your life!

An opportunity to reaffirm your Judaism and deepen your spiritual relationship with Torah by participating in our Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah course.



There is no formal statement of principles of Jewish faith that is recognized or accepted by everyone. Throughout the centuries, great Jewish figures, from Maimonides to modern Reform rabbis, have attempted to create a list of basic principles of Judaism, concepts of belief which have been explored, discussed and debated. Now, you can become a part of the discussion!

Throughout the year the adult b'nei mitzvah will explore core concepts of Judaism, gain understanding of the view of tradition, and formulate their own personal "principles of faith." Participants will also brush up Hebrew skills and celebrate in a beautiful and meaningful Shabbat service on June 8, 2012.

- If you didn't celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah when you were 13, this course is your opportunity!
- If you did celebrate your Bar or Bat Mitzvah as a child, but want to study Judaism on a deeper, more spiritual level, this course is your opportunity!
- If you chose Judaism as an adult, and want to celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, this course is your opportunity!
- If you enjoy learning and thinking about the beautiful heritage of Judaism, and want to participate for any reason, this is your opportunity!

Instructor: Rabbi Paula Goldberg

Thursday evenings: 7:30-9:15 pm

Fee: \$118

Text: *Judaism and Spiritual Ethics* by Niles Goldstein and Steven Mason (included in fee)

Information and Orientation Session: September 15 at 7:30pm

Class Dates: September 15, 22, October 6, 13, December 15, January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, April 19, 26, May 3, 10.

No class will be held: September 29 (Rosh Hashanah), November 17, 24, December 22, 29, January 5, 12, 19, April 5, 12.

Additional Lifelong Learning courses are required. See details in this brochure.

Rehearsals: May 17, 24, 31 and June 7

Service: June 8

LUNCH & LEARN

This monthly program will continue on the third Thursday of each month; lunch at 11:30 am and program at 12:15 pm. No pre-registration is required.

LUNCH & LEARN SCHEDULE

Month	Instructor	Topic
September 15	Rabbi Elliot Strom	Israel, the Palestinians and the UN: Will the United Nations Declare a Palestinian State?
October 20	Rabbi Paula Goldberg	Biblical Archeology: Secrets of the True Origin of the People Israel
November 17	Rabbi Eric Goldberg	Two Visions of Israel: Theodor Herzl and Ahad Ha'am and which would be your "ideal" Israel
December 15	TBA	TBA
January 19	Rabbi Paula Goldberg	How to Be Mensch: A Handbook of Jewish Principles and Values
February 16	Rabbi Eric Goldberg	HaKoach: The All Jewish Soccer Team that Conquered Austria prior to the Nazis rise to power.
March 15	Rabbi Annette Koch	TBA
April 19	Rabbi Elliot Strom	A Jewish State or a State of the Jews?
May 17	Sheldon Halpern	A Town Across the Green Line
June 21	Cantor Mark Elson	Jewish Music

Topics and Instructors are subject to change

THE YIDDISH CULTURE CLUB MEETS AT 10AM BEFORE EVERY LUNCH & LEARN. PLEASE STOP BY AND JOIN US!

FALL OFFERINGS

A TASTE OF ISRAEL

**Thursdays, October 20 and 27, November 3 and 10
7:30 – 9:15 pm**

Instructor: Rabbi Eric Goldberg



Some would argue that to get to know a country is best done through food, for it is through food that one can learn the history, culture and personality of a people. This is certainly true of our people's homeland, where countless cultures have merged together to create what we call the 'Israeli' way of life. This course will allow participants to make and taste dishes that are familiar (falafel and humus) and not so familiar (shakshuka and malawach), as well as enjoy various condiments (tabuleh, tahina, hareef, etc.) that are found in homes, stands and restaurants throughout Israel. While doing so, participants will learn about the history and culture of the people who brought these dishes from places like Yemen, Morocco and Iraq to Israel and made them the cornerstone of what we call Israeli cuisine in the 21st Century.

**There are only two requirements for admission to these sessions:
Come ready to cook and come hungry!**

B'tei-avon!

BREAD AND TORAH: A FAMILY PROGRAM

**Rabbis Linda Motzkin, soferet
Jonathon Rubenstein, bread maker**

**Saturday Evening, October 29
At the home of Andrea and Chuck Silverman
1503 Hayfield Drive, Yardley, PA**

**Sunday, October 30
for Sixth Grade Religious School PACT Program only**

Sustaining Ourselves and the World Through the Mitzvah of Challah

Traditionally, bakers separate and set aside a portion of the dough when making challah. As we prepare challah, we will discuss the meaning of this practice, learn about bread-making, and explore how our awareness of the provenance of our food can enrich our daily lives and enhance our efforts towards "tikkun olam." Each participant will take a loaf home.

Hands-On Torah

How often does one get the opportunity to participate in the making of a Torah scroll, an act that some say is the 613th mitzvah of the Torah? Come learn about and be part of the process; see and touch the materials involved, including stretching on a frame and scraping a piece of parchment that will be a future panel in a Torah scroll.

5:30 pm -- Welcome and Introduction to the Evening

5:45 pm -- Challah-baking with Rabbi Rubenstein

6:30 pm -- Havdalah

6:45 pm -- Parchment preparation with Rabbi Motzkin

7:30 pm -- Conclusion

*Please note -- Rabbi Motzkin will not be doing any Torah-related work until after Havdalah and the end of Shabbat.

***Please call the synagogue office to register for this program - (215) 968-3400
The Saturday evening program is limited to 40 participants and is free to Shir Ami members.**

Sunday morning's program will be the same as the Saturday Evening program at the usual Religious School hours of 9 am to 11 am and will be part of the sixth-grade PACT program.

ADDITIONAL FALL OFFERINGS

FOUR HISTORIC VIEWS ON THE JEWISH STATE: Are the Visions of the Founding Fathers of the Zionist Movement Still Relevant for Our World?

Professor Rabbi David Ruderman

Friday, November 11, 2011

7:30 pm at Shabbat Services

We're so pleased that Professor Rabbi David Ruderman – an inspired and inspiring teacher -- is back with us again this year! In keeping with our "Year of Israel" theme Rabbi Ruderman will be looking at some of the great visions and debates that revolutionized Jewish thinking and created the state of Israel. Rabbi Ruderman will speak about four visions of the State of Israel -- Achad Ha-Am, Klatskin, Buber and Brandeis -- reflecting on their dreams and aspirations and considering their relevance for us today.

Professor David B. Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Ella Darivoff Director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of a great many volumes of Jewish historical scholarship, including most recently *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History* (Princeton, 2010). He is the author of numerous articles and reviews and authored the Jewish history text used by rabbinical students at the Hebrew Union College in New York. Professor Ruderman speaks and teaches and enjoys tremendous reputé all around the world.

MY HEART IS IN THE EAST: Israel in Poetry, Medieval and Modern

Instructor: Rabbi Annette Koch

Thursday Evenings, December 1 and 8

7:30 pm

Poetry gives us a unique way to express what we feel and what we believe. We will explore the power of our own connection to the Jewish state through the eyes and words and hearts of some of her most articulate poets, including Yehuda HaLevi, Ibn Ezra and Solomon Gabirol, as well as a few modern voices including Chaim Nachman Bialik, Zelda, and Yehuda Amichai, among others. We will reflect on how their longings and concerns resemble ours, and in what ways they are different, while seeing pages of the history of the Jewish people through a new lens.

WINTER AND SPRING OFFERINGS

PEACE BY PIECE:

The Elements & Sticking Points of a Middle East Peace Agreement.

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Strom

Thursday evenings, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

7:30--9:15 pm



What are the essential elements of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and what makes these issues so very difficult and contentious? The status of Jerusalem, the "right of return," borders, security, mutual recognition, water rights...we all know there can be no peace without a solution to these issues. But each of them is loaded, each carries its own particular history and complications and a failure to solve any one might be enough to undo the entire process.

In this five-week course, we'll take a look at each issue, one by one, attempting to understand why it is so essential, what its inherent difficulties and challenges are for each side and perhaps even suggest a compromise to which both sides might agree in the interests of a comprehensive peace understanding. This course will give us a better understanding of these all-important elements to a peace agreement and why such an agreement continues to remain so elusive but so essential.

Please note: While we hope our adult learners will be with us for the duration of this five week exploration, each evening will address a different issue as a separate unit so participants are encouraged to attend as many weeks and learn about as many different elements as possible.

LEO SLOMOVITZ SCHOLAR & ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ANNA GEVER MUSIC SHABBAT

Please join us as we enjoy an entire weekend of wonderful and exciting music by our Scholar and Artist in Residence

DAN NICHOLS

Dan Nichols is one of the most popular and influential Jewish musicians in North America, performing over 200 events a year. He is a product of Jewish summer camp, having grown up at the URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, IN. His music has become an essential part of the liberal Jewish world, with Jewish youth and clergy alike incorporating it into their study, worship, and communal celebrations.

Anna Gever Shabbat

Friday March 23, 2012
Shabbat Services
7:30 pm

Chevrat Torah

Saturday morning
10:15 am

Saturday Evening

Havdalah followed by **Dan Nichols and Eighteen Rock Concert**
All Are Welcome!

SHAFTY and NFTY PAR member Shul-In following the concert

*Time and price of concert TBA



Sunday Religious School

Dan will lead a special service for our kindergarten thru 5th graders and join our Sixth Grade Parents and Children Together - PACT - for a unique program just for them.

MEN'S CLUB AND WOMEN OF SHIR AMI OFFERINGS

The Men's Club at Shir Ami presents:

YAAKOV KATZ: The Military Correspondent and Defense Analyst for the Jerusalem Post

Sunday, October 23, 2011

1:00 pm

Topic: Israeli Security in a volatile Middle East

This event is open to the public at large. Refreshments will be provided following the presentation.

Women of Shir Ami's Terry Gunther Study Group presents:

JEWISH MYTHS AND BUBBEMEISES: Do you really know what you think you know?

Sundays, February 12, 26 and March 4

9:00 am

We all know some things for certain about the traditional view of Jewish life and law -- at least we think we know for sure.

Consider these "facts":

- the Talmud says that women cannot read from, or even touch the Torah scroll
- lying is always wrong
- a mitzvah is a good deed
- the mourner's kaddish is a prayer for the dead
- kosher laws were meant to protect our health
- Judaism opposes birth control!
- Jewish prayer should only be in Hebrew

None of these are totally true -- or totally false. We will explore these and other ideas, superstitions and bubbe meises (old wives tales) to learn what we know, and what we may not know. Come and be surprised!

(If you have a particular idea, story or question that you want to check out, e-mail Rabbi Paula Goldberg at rabbipaula@gmail.com)

COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is required so that adequate space and material can be prepared. Courses are free for Shir Ami members, \$36 each for non-members. Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah program is \$118 open to members and those who are planning to become members of Shir Ami.

Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah

FALL:

A Taste of Israel

My Heart is in the East

WINTER & SPRING:

Peace by Piece

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____

Please send to: Shir Ami - Lifelong Learning c/o Diana Rosenberg
101 Richboro Road • Newtown, PA 18940

**THE LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD
TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS YEAR'S EXCITING
LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES!**

KEEPERS OF JEWISH EXCELLENCE

**"Get yourself a teacher, find someone to study with,
judge everyone favorably." -Pirke Avot**

**We extend an invitation for you to become a Keeper
of Jewish Excellence. This year our theme is JEWISH ARTS,
CULTURE AND THOUGHT, and supporting the all important
mitzvah of learning and prayer allows us to continue
our Lifelong Learning commitments.**

Thank you in advance,

The Lifelong Learning Committee

\$500 \$250 \$180 \$100 other

Make checks payable to Shir Ami

Mail To: Shir Ami – Lifelong Learning
101 Richboro Road
Newtown, Pa 18940

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____



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