

Jewish Learning @ Temple Israel

Mondays: December 1, 8 & 15 ♦ **7 – 9 p.m.**

Fee: \$36 per person (includes a class-related book for your Jewish library)

Registrations due by **November 21, 2008**

Choose any ONE of these three-session courses. Enrollment is open to all.

How Jews Became White Folks: The Changing Nature of Race from a Jewish Perspective

Instructor: Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman and guest clergy

American Jews have been subjected throughout history to changing classifications that provide insights on race. Prevailing classifications have sometimes assigned Jews to the white race and at other times have created a non-white racial designation for us. Those changes in racial assignment have shaped how we American Jews have constructed our ethno-racial identities in different eras. With guest clergy and a reading of Karen Brodtkin's book, *How Jews Became White Folks*, we will explore the changing nature of race in America from a Jewish perspective.

Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman is the Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel.

Jewish Humor from Biblical Times to the Present Day

Instructor: Rabbi Sim Glaser

As the sages did not say: "Just as Jews have kept humor alive, so has humor kept alive the Jewish people." Seriously, how come so many comics are Jews? What has *schlepped* us to the humorous side of life despite our tragic history? Is that joke really funny, rabbi? I don't think it's so funny, rabbi... Oh yeah? Well, I think it's funny and I'm teaching the *fekaktah* class. So, you want to laugh? You want to find out how far back Jewish humor goes? So take the course and stop *kvetching*!

Rabbi Sim Glaser is the Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel.

Sultry Jewish Stories: Tales Your Religious School Teacher Would Have Been Fired For Teaching

Instructor: Rabbi Jared Saks

This class is limited to those in their 20s and 30s.

In the book of Esther, what was a nice Jewish girl doing sleeping with the King anyway? Did she enjoy it? The biblical text paints Jonathan and David as best of friends. Was there more to their relationship? This class will engage you in risqué discussion that you wouldn't want to have in front of your grandma.

Rabbi Jared Saks is the Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel.

Jewish Holocaust Literature:

The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million

Instructor: Rabbi Joseph Edelheit

Limited to 20

We will discuss aspects of *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* by Daniel Mendelsohn. The book is a personal account of a search for the part of his family barely spoken of except that they were "killed by the Nazis." After Mendelsohn came upon letters from his great uncle pleading for help from his American relatives, Mendelsohn set out to find what had happened to that lost family. The result is both memoir and history, an ambitious and meditative detective story that takes him across the globe in search of these few almost forgotten lives.

Rabbi Joseph Edelheit is the Director of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies and Professor of Philosophy at St. Cloud State University and Adjunct Professor at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Hey, That's Mine! The Spirituality of Ownership in Jewish Tradition and Law

Instructor: Rabbi Shosh Dworsky

From buying on eBay, to laying claim to the Holy Land, the recovery of property and the Jewish law surrounding it, the transfer of property, and the question of what has happened for millenia to property rights, should we be concerned for ours? How does one square property rights or return to a previous owner with "the earth is the Lord's?" We will look at biblical stories and Talmudic traditions to appreciate the depth of this timeless issue.

Rabbi Shosh Dworsky is the Associate Chaplain at Carleton College. She was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has served congregations in New York City and Portland, Oregon.

In the spirit of *Tikkun Olam*, please donate soft-cover books to the Women's Prison Book Project on any night of JL@TI. They provide women in prison with free reading material.

JL@TI Courses and Registration continued

The Hanukkah Stories You Didn't Learn in Sunday School

Instructor: Alex Jassen, PhD

Hanukkah is the most widely celebrated holiday on the Jewish calendar. We love it for the family food and, of course, the gelt. But have you ever heard about the Hanukkah story? The story of the miracle of the oil, but why? How long did it last? When and why did it happen? Join us on a journey through the ancient sources about Hanukkah and uncover the background of its rituals and customs.

Alex Jassen is Assistant Professor of Early Judaism in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies and a member of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota. He completed his PhD in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University and was ordained at the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem.

Saving Money, Time, Your Health and the Planet: From Environmental Jewish Teachings to Four Natural Steps to Sustainability

Instructor: Terry Gips

How can you, as a Jew, be more sustainable? How can you create a sustainable life? How can you explore Jewish teachings on sustainability? We will explore the Natural Step Framework (NSF), an easy-to-understand, educational tool for people and institutions to become sustainable. Your life and the planet will never be the same.

Terry Gips is an Adjunct Professor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and independent Natural Step Framework instructor. He is the President of Sustainability Associates, Executive Director of the Alliance for Sustainability and founding Vice-Chair of Congregations Caring for Creation.

Jewish Ceremonial Art: A Hands-on Ceramics Workshop

Instructor: Suzanna Schlesinger

Limited to 20

*There is no book for this course; fees will cover the cost of materials and firings.

Ritual has always inspired Jewish artists. We will study historical and contemporary artistic interpretations of ritual objects, and learn basic techniques to create hand built works in clay. Each of us will then create our own ceremonial art, including but not limited to a tzedakah box and a spice box.

Suzanna Schlesinger is a studio artist who works in a variety of media. Her studio is at the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis. She earned a degree in "Art as Political Voice" from Pitzer College.

Temple Israel Adult Learning

◆ JL@TI 2008 Fall Courses ◆

Registration Deadline: November 21, 2008

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Are you a Temple Israel member? Yes No

\$36 per person

- Included is an additional contribution to support the participation of others. \$ _____
- Scholarships/payment plans are available. Please send me a scholarship/payment plan form.

Total enclosed (payable to Temple Israel) \$ _____

(Choose ONE)

- How Jews Became White Folks: The Changing Nature of Race from a Jewish Perspective**
- Jewish Humor from Biblical Times to the Present Day**
- Sultry Jewish Stories: Tales Your Religious School Teacher Would Have Been Fired For Teaching**
- Jewish Holocaust Literature: *The Lost: Search for Six of Six Million***
- Hey, That's Mine! The Spirituality of Ownership in Jewish Tradition and Law**
- The Hanukkah Stories You Didn't Learn in Sunday School**
- Saving Money, Time, Your Health and the Planet: From Environmental Jewish Teachings to Four Natural Steps to Sustainability**
- Jewish Ceremonial Art: A Hands-on Ceramics Workshop**

Return Registration and Fees to:

Wendy Schwartz, Adult Learning Coordinator

612-374-0344 ◆ wschwartz@templeisrael.com