



Open Beit Midrash

Tuesday Evenings

October 16, 2012 to May 7, 2013

6:45-7:15 Dinner
 7:15 -8:45 Choose from several simultaneous class offerings
 8:45-10:00 Weekly musical performance with Joey Weisenberg Ensemble (with more food to nosh!)

Cost: \$10 per evening.
 No need for prior registration

236 Kane Street, (between Court and Clinton)
 Cobble Hill, Brooklyn

The Beit Midrash (House of Study) has traditionally been the cultural center for creative spiritual conversation, a place to bring everyone together in an atmosphere of focused learning, energetic discussion and personal search.

Using the educational techniques of a traditional Yeshiva, but in a progressive, inclusive, Brownstone Brooklyn way, our study will center around tables, with provocative texts and helpful resources arrayed before the students.

The Open Beit Midrash is for learners of all levels. We value diversity. Come whether you have studied Jewish texts for 20 years or are a complete novice. Madrichim, learning guides, will roam the Beit Midrash to welcome students and help them find an appropriate level of study.

Each Beit Midrash evening begins with a light repast and concludes with a performance of Jewish spiritual music by Joey Weisenberg and his band, with more refreshments.



Sol and Lillian Goldman Educational Center
 Kane Street Synagogue
 236 Kane Street
 (between Court and Clinton)
 Cobble Hill, Brooklyn

www.kanestreet.org
 718-875-1550
 Fax 718-797-1152

A weekly opportunity to study Jewish texts,
 hear live Jewish music, and enjoy good food. **The
 Open Beit Midrash**

at Kane Street Synagogue
 Sol and Lillian Goldman
 Educational Center



LEARNING AND TRANSFORMATION

Classes January to May:

FOUNDATIONS OF JEWISH LIFE

Jason Gitlin

Study the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice as we explore the Shabbat, holidays, prayer, theology, mitzvot, Israel and life cycle events, and engage with texts that form the foundation of Jewish life in the home and synagogue.

January 8 – March 19

THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION AND ITS MANY COMMENTATORS

Rabbi Sam Weintraub

Giving special attention to ethical wisdom embedded in the text, we will explore the Torah text with commentaries from Talmudic Midrash (0-700 C.E.), medieval Biblical exegesis (1000-1400 C.E.), Chasidism (1770-1920) and modern Jewish feminism.

January 8 - February 26

TAKE THREE PSALMS *Rabbi Simkha Weintraub*

This three-session class will look at three liturgically important psalms, and explore their meanings, their place in the prayer book, and spiritual possibilities in reciting/chanting them.

January 8, 15, 22

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: THREATS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE *Dan Greenwood*

Jewish law prescribes the death penalty but then makes it all but impossible to inflict the sentence. Explore possible answers for why the death penalty is more of a principle than a practice in the Jewish tradition.

January 8

VISUAL IMAGES IN YEHUDA AMICHAÏ'S POETRY *Hai Knafo*

Among Israeli poets, Yehuda Amichai is readily translatable because of his clear, direct language and frequent use of visual imagery. This three-part series will analyze his poems and their imagery through works that engage the themes of love, Jerusalem and religion.

January 15, 22, 29

LEADING WEEKDAY SHACHARIT

Rena Schklowsky

Learn how to lead the daily morning minyan.

January 29, February 5, 12

THE SYNAGOGUE OF DURA EUROPOS

Fred Terna

Built in antiquity, and discovered and excavated in the 1920's in Syria on the Euphrates River, three of this synagogue's remaining walls are covered with murals depicting Biblical themes. Learn about these images and their themes, as we explore a period when visual representation in synagogues was embraced by some communities.

February 5

THE FOLIO OF THIS WORLD: SHAKESPEARE AND THE HEBREW BIBLE

Noah Millman

In this class, we will explore archetypes that appear in the Bible and discover how they manifest themselves in the works of Shakespeare.

February 12

TALKING ABOUT GOD: WHAT JEWS BELIEVE, WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Gella Solomon

This class aims to engage students in a dynamic give-and-take regarding our own diverse theologies and where our thoughts, beliefs, and notions about God are located within the tradition. Material will include classical and modern Jewish texts. This class is geared toward helping adults find a language with which to talk about their ideas about The Divine.

February 19

MEDICINE AND HALAKHA

Dr. Rebecca Shiffman

Investigate how Jewish Law has sought to understand and guide individuals and communities regarding end-of-life issues, organ transplants and other medical concerns. All the while asking: if God is the supreme healer, what is the role of physicians?

February 26, March 5

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE SHABBAT MORNING SANCTUARY SERVICE

Rabbi Sam Weintraub and Joey Weisenberg

Focusing on the Torah and Musaf services, this three-part series will help you find personal meaning in the Shabbat morning service at Kane Street. We will study the meaning of the prayers, as well as the structure and spiritual goals of these services. Special attention will be placed on service choreography and customs at Kane Street, as well as learning popular prayer melodies. The class will include time to reflect and develop our own relationship to Jewish prayer, faith, and community. No prior familiarity with the prayer service or Hebrew literacy is required. We only require a sincere desire to learn.

March 5, 12 and 19

TUMULTUOUS TIME KEEPING

Bob Marx

How the Jewish cosmic clock came into being tells a story that offers profound insight into how the Jewish people evolved. Through studying texts, and a little bit of astronomy, we will get a glimpse into how the Jewish calendar reflects the unique and imaginative life that Jews have created over these last several millennia.

March 5

THE PASSOVER BUNNY: RABBIT HUNT ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE HAGGADAH

David Grupper

Starting in the Middle Ages, images of rabbit hunting have appeared in illuminated and printed Haggadot. We will explore reasons for this motif, touching on rabbinic explanations, pagan origins of spring-time holidays, Jewish/Christian relations, mythology, and symbolism related to rabbits.

March 12

BASIC TORAH RITUALS

Rena Schklowsky

From reciting the blessings before reading the Torah to performing Hagbah, the raising of the Torah, get a grasp on the rituals surrounding our holy Scrolls.

March 12

JEWISH STORIES PARENTS CAN RETELL TO THEIR CHILDREN *Rabbi Valerie Lieber*

Hear a couple of wonderful Jewish stories and reflect on their values and how stories work to move us. Then we will explore some sources for good stories and consider how these tales have evolved over time to reflect the agenda of the tellers. Parents will learn how to address their children's hopes and fears through stories.

March 19

MEDICAL ETHICS OF MAIMONIDES *Eric Gold*

Are doctors obligated first and foremost to their patients? The public? Their employers? To science, God or law? We will debate classic and timeless case studies by Maimonides (Rambam), who in addition to compiling the great codes of Jewish law was also one of the foremost physicians of his day.

March 19

THE ART OF THE JEWISH PAPER-CUT

Deborah Ugoretz

Discover the history, applications and meanings of this folk-art tradition. For hundreds of years, Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews have been engaged in this art form, creating beautiful pieces out of simple materials as a way to sanctify God. We will explore some historical examples and the artist will demonstrate her craft.

April 9

TALMUD FOR THE TIMID *Bob Marx*

You may think of the Talmud as an archaic document with little relevance to the aching questions that bedevil modern society -- but look again. Through examining a few selections of Talmud, we will better appreciate how this often refreshing and revolutionary text laid the foundations for much of Jewish life and rippled through all of Western civilization.

April 9

SHABBAT AT HOME *Joey Weisenberg*

Learn and practice the basic rituals of the Shabbat table, as well as some beautiful Shabbat melodies.

April 9

THE MEANING OF ISRAEL IN OUR CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIVES

Rabbi Reuven Greenwald

Using texts from Israeli popular culture, we will enter into Israel today and think about what it means to us as individuals and how we can learn to talk about Israel's complexity as a community.

April 16, 23, 30, May 7

THE HERODIAN TEMPLE *Fred Terna*

The Herodian Temple, destroyed by the Romans, except for a small section of its western wall, remained but a memory until recent times. Explore the ample evidence we now have of its former glory.

April 16

A SHMEK LITERATUR: YIDDISH POETRY ACROSS CENTURIES AND CONTINENTS

Ross Perlin

Ashkenazi poets the world over have worked in Yiddish as modernists and postmodernists, writers of religious verse, folklorists, and "sweatshop poets". After a whirlwind introduction to this tradition, we will discuss three short poems (in original and translation—no Yiddish knowledge required, but certainly welcome!) from very different times, places, and genres.

April 23

AMUD HATEFILLAH/THE PILLAR OF PRAYER

Ben Resnick

Drawing on the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov, the Gerrer Rebbe and others, we will explore classical Hasidic approaches to prayer, mindful of their contemporary resonances and their potential application to the contemplative life.

April 30

THE OVEN OF AKHNAI *Dan Greenwood*

Explore this Talmudic story in which the rabbis outvoted the voice from Heaven, overruling God in a legal dispute, and consider its impact on the origins of Jewish atheism.

May 7

January 8	Capital Punishment: Threats without substance Dan Greenwood	Take Three Psalms Simkha Weintraub	Foundations of Jewish Life Jason Gitlin	The Weekly Torah Portion and its Many Commentators, 0-2013 C.E. Rabbi Sam Weintraub
January 15	Visual Images in Yehuda Amichai's Poetry	Leading Week-day Shacharit Rena Schklowsky		
January 22	Hai Knafo			
January 29				
February 5	Dura Europos Synagogue Fred Terna			
February 12	Shakespeare and the Hebrew Bible Noah Millman			
February 19	Hebrew Bible Gella Solomon			
February 26		Medicine And Halachah Dr. Rebecca Shiffman		
March 5	Tumultuous Time Keeping Bob Marx			Finding Your Place in the Shabbat Morning Sanctuary Service Rabbi Sam Weintraub and Joey Weisenberg
March 12 Rosh Chodesh	Basic Torah Rituals Rena Schklowsky	Rabbit Hunt Illustrations in the Haggadah David Grupper		
March 19	Jewish Stories Parents Can Retell to Their Children Rabbi Valerie Lieber	Medical Ethics of Maimonides Eric Gold		
March 26 – April 2 CLOSED (Pesach)				
April 9	Talmud for the Timid Bob Marx	The art of the Jewish paper-cut Deborah Ugoretz	Shabbat at Home Joey Weisenberg	
April 16 Yom Haatzm'ut Program	The Herodian Temple Fred Terna	Exploring the meaning of Israel in our contemporary Jewish lives Reuven Greenwald		
April 23	A Shmek Literatur: Yiddish Poetry Across Centuries and Continents Ross Perlin			
April 30	Amud HaTefillah (The Pillar of Prayer) Ben Resnick			
May 7	The Oven of Akhnai Dan Greenwood			

No need for prior registration. Just drop in. Cost is \$10 per evening, for dinner, course and musical performance.

Faculty

Jason Gitlin, a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), is Congregational Engagement Associate at Kane Street Synagogue and rabbinic intern at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. He previously worked at UJA-Federation of New York and in journalism and holds an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from NYU.

Eric Gold is a fine-dining server turned Jewish educator turned international technology guru turned pre-medical student who is completing his post-baccalaureate studies at Brooklyn College.

Rabbi Reuven Greenvald was a Jewish day school teacher and leader for over 20 years and is currently thinking about Jewish peoplehood and Israel at the Jewish Agency for Israel. He was ordained as a rabbi by JTS.

Daniel J. H. Greenwood is a Professor of Law at Hofstra University specializing in corporate finance, business organizations and torts.

David Grupper is an artist and graphic designer. For over 30 years he has been a member of Kane Street Synagogue where has taught adult-ed courses and designed brochures, flyers and other material. He is the co-author of "The Paper Shtetl," by Schocken books.

Hedda Kafka, MPS, LCAT is a licensed Creative Arts Therapist with over 30 years of professional experience developing programs for groups and individuals that enhance insight and well-being through the use of art. Hedda practices privately in Brooklyn.

Hai Knafo grew up in Israel and read and loved Yehuda Amichai's poetry since adolescence. Before moving to Brooklyn, Hai dabbled both in fine art and poetry, but losing his language, he became a visual artist.

Rabbi Valerie Lieber is the Director of Education & Family Programming at Kane Street Synagogue. She received ordination at Hebrew Union College and served as Rabbi of Temple Israel of Jamaica in Queens for six years.

Bob Marx is a high school physics teacher whose Yeshiva background has allowed him to explore the endlessly interesting interactions of science and halacha.

Noah Millman is a writer and veteran Kane Street prayer leader who loves the Hebrew Bible and Shakespeare.

Ross Perlin is a writer, linguist, and farbrenger Yiddishist. He served as the Mekong Delta bureau chief for the Yiddish Forward, for whom he hosted the online video series "A New York Jew in China". In English, he writes on labor, politics, and language. His first book (2012) is *Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy*.

Benjamin Resnick, a JTS rabbinical student, has served as interim spiritual leader at Congregation Beth El in New London and rabbinic intern at the Jerusalem Open house.

Rena Schklowsky is chair of Kane Street's Ritual Committee. She considers it an honor to support members who seek to increase their synagogue skills.

Dr. Rebecca Shiffman is the director of Maternal-Fetal-Medicine at the Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center. She is also a professional ski instructor.

Gella Solomon holds a degree in Hebrew Language and Culture from SUNY Purchase. She has studied at The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, The Drisha Institute in New York City, The Northwoods Kollel in Wisconsin, and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Fred Terna is a painter and lecturer. He is a survivor of Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, and two other camps. The Yad Vashem museum has one of his paintings. He designed the two stained glass windows in Kane Street's chapel.

Deborah Ugoretz, recognized as a master paper-cut artist by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, has been creating papercuts and teaching the art form for 30 years. You can view her work at www.ugoretzart.com.

Rabbi Sam Weintraub was ordained as a rabbi at JTS and has been Spiritual Leader of Kane Street Synagogue for 16 years. One of his favorite Biblical verses is "Hoi kol Tzamei L'chu LaMayim" "Ho! Let everyone who is thirsty (meaning searching) come for water (meaning Torah)!" (Isaiah 55:1)

Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LCSW, serves as Rabbinic Director of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, where his major responsibilities involve the New York Jewish Healing Center and the National Center for Jewish Healing. He was ordained as a rabbi at JTS.

Joey Weisenberg is the Music Director/Community Educator at Kane Street Synagogue, as well as an active performing musician and teacher throughout the country.

JOEY WEISENBERG ENSEMBLE *Atzeret and Transformation of a Nigun*

After sharing dinner and enlightening study with friends, why rush away? Every Tuesday night, the Beit Midrash concludes with "Atzeret" (Hebrew for "staying back"). We join in the Sanctuary Choir Loft and listen to the inspiring spiritual improvisations of the Joey Weisenberg Ensemble. The acoustics are gorgeous and the music is transformative. Atzeret is the perfect antidote to the pressures and rush of our busy New York lives. 8:45-10:00 P.M. every Tuesday. Try it. You may stay for as much, or as little as you like.

For this series, the band will feature:

Joey Weisenberg	Mandolin, Guitar, Vocals
Sam Weisenberg	Percussion
Myk Friedman	Lap Steel
Yoshie Fruchter	Bass, Harmony Vocals
Jake Shulman-Ment	Violin
Mattisyahu Brown	Harmony Vocals
Deborah Sacks	Harmony Vocals

with many special guest musicians and harmony singers!