

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

**The Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat
Miniversity Of Judaism**

**CATALOGUE OF COURSES
2009-2010**



Temple Beth Israel
567 Bay Isles Road,
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-3428

MINIVERSITY REGISTRATION AND FEE SCHEDULE

For paid-up Temple members, there is no fee for any part of the Miniversity Program.

Non-Temple members can register for all courses as per the following schedule:

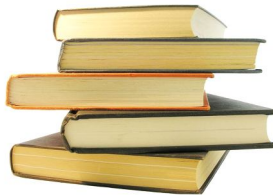
Any single session program, seminar or discussion	\$10 per person
Any two session course	\$15 per person
Any three session course	\$25 per person
For admission to the entire series	\$60 per person

The Bible Study Series is free and open to the public

We may limit attendance at each course in order to provide optimum conditions.

**Sign up NOW for the Miniversity courses
to avoid disappointment.**

**If you have any questions,
please call the Temple Office at 383-3428**



Temple Beth Israel's Rabbi Michael Eisenstat Miniversity of Judaism
REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE CIRCLE: **Member(s)** **Non-Member(s)**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Please indicate which courses you will attend

Bible Study Series: Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Jewish Antiques From Eastern Europe

The Jews You've Never Met

Behind the Scenes With FST

Why Hasidism?

The Permanent Crisis in the Middle East

An Exploration of Modern Reform Responsa Literature

Yiddish Life in Europe from 1850 to WWII

Is The Messiah Coming?

Alfred Uhry, The Southern Jewish Playwright

Buber, Herschel and Einstein in Search of God

**Please return this form to: Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228**

All Registrants: Please return your check for the appropriate amount per person, as outlined under the applicable "Registration and Fee Schedule" on the previous page with this form. Please make checks payable to: Temple Beth Israel

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Howard Markus, Co-Chair
Milton Richter, Co-Chair
Rabbi Jonathan Katz, Dean**

MIMI EDLIN
NANCY EISENSTAT
RUTH ENGMAN
HILDA FORCHEIMER
EARL GORDON
CARROL KAHN
MAYE LAVINSON
DR. IRA SINGER

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BIBLE STUDY

SACRED WRITINGS – BOOKS FOR YOM TOV

Monday 2:00pm

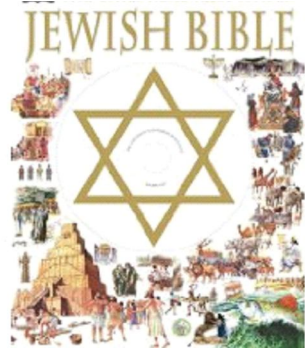
October 26 Rabbi Jonathan Katz
Ecclesiastes (Sukkot)

November 16 Rabbi Howard Simon
Song of Songs (Pesach)

December 21 Rabbi Herbert Rose
Ruth (Shavout)

January 25 Rabbi Michael Eisenstat
Chronicles (Tisha B'Av)

February 22 Rabbi Peter Kasdan
Esther (Purim)



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## JEWISH ANTIQUES FROM EASTERN EUROPE

**Instructor: Professor Robert Barylski**

This will be an illustrated lecture on Jewish antiques from Eastern Europe, especially Galicia. We will pay particular attention to the Hanukah lamps, lavers, Shabbat lamps and candelabra and synagogue chandeliers. It is astonishing that so much rich material has survived.

Professor Barylski is an Associate Professor of Government & International Affairs at USF- Sarasota-Manatee. He is a renowned author, lecturer and expert on the former Soviet Union and an avid collector of Eastern European Jewish antiques.

### Wednesday 2:00pm

December 16, 2009



**JEWS YOU'VE NEVER MET:  
THE JEWS OF THE SOUTH**

**Instructors: Rabbis Michael Eisenstat, Aaron Koplin,  
Lawrence Mahrer**

Jews have contributed much to the growth of the United States and to various locations throughout the country. Come and meet some of them who settled, prospered and contributed so much to their communities in the South.

**2:00pm**

Tuesday, January 5, 2010 Rabbi Eisenstat – Jews of Arkansas  
and Alabama

Thursday, January 7, 2010 Rabbi Koplin – Jews of Virginia

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 Rabbi Mahrer – Jews of the Carolinas

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GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FST

Instructors: Beth Duda, Adam Ratner, Rabbi Jonathan Katz

Florida Studio possesses one of the premier drama education programs in America today. This class, the product of an exciting collaboration between FST and TBI, goes behind the scenes of some of the most compelling accounts of the Bible: Isaac finding the love of Rebecca, Joseph reconciling with his brothers in Egypt, the Israelites' rebellion in the Wilderness and Moses' passing on Mt. Nebo. Experience the thematic depth, poignancy and timeless insights of these scenes from many stimulating new perspectives; provocatively and evocatively coming to life before your eyes.

Beth Duda and Adam Ratner are Florida Studio Theater Master Teachers.

Rabbi Katz is the rabbi of Temple Beth Israel.

Wednesday 2:00pm

January 6, 13, 2010



WHY HASIDISM?

Instructor: Rabbi Jonathan Katz

The emergence of Hasidism in the 17th century presaged a radical change of perspective among Eastern European Jews in terms of Jewish theology, education and practice. What factors accounted for the widespread popularity and impact of this new stream of Judaism. The class explores a range of topics related to Hasidic leadership, wisdom and spiritual elevation.

Rabbi Katz is the rabbi of Temple Beth Israel and is an accomplished instructor.

Thursday 2:00pm

January 14, 21, 28, 2010

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## THE PERMANENT CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**Instructor: Dr. Thomas Hecht**

This presentation will deal with issues of conflict solutions and/or conflict management as well as changes in US, Israeli and Arab strategies.



Dr. Hecht was born in Czechoslovakia in 1929, escaped from Europe and arrived in Canada in 1942. In 1978, the Presidential Council of the Herzl Prize in Israel awarded the coveted Herzl Prize to him for dedicated public service on behalf of the State of Israel. In 1993, he founded the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, a policy oriented think tank on issues affecting security and peace in the Middle East. He is the chairman of its International Advisory Committee.

**Wednesday, 2:00pm**

January 20, 2009

**AN EXPLORATION OF MODERN REFORM  
RESPONSA LITERATURE:  
HOW JEWISH TRADITION CAN HELP US RESPOND TO  
CONTROVERSIAL MODERN-DAY ISSUES**

**Instructor: Rabbi Peter E. Kasdan**

The only section of the “Halacha” (the Jewish Legal System) that still exists today is known as the Responsa Literature, a series of questions and answers, which expand the entire system.

We will “ask our questions” and see how Responsa interacts with “modern day” medical and scientific advances and impacts the “ethical” issues that we are forced to confront every day.



Although we will utilize the original Biblical and Rabbinical texts in our research answers, attendees are asked to submit their own “halachic” questions no later than January 15 so that there is time for researching the answers before the start of class. Please e-mail your questions to [tbi-admin@verizon.net](mailto:tbi-admin@verizon.net). Subject line should read: **Rabbi Kasdan’s Class.**

Rabbi Kasdan is a scholar and a well-respected teacher. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanuel of West Essex, Livingston, NJ and participates in many and varied community and religious activities, among which he is most active as the Rabbinic Advisor of the Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium.

**Wednesday 2:00pm**

February 3, 10, 17, 2010

## **YIDDISH LIFE IN EUROPE FROM 1850 TO WWII**

**Instructor: Baila Miller**

How did our European relatives, their friends and contemporaries live, celebrate and die in the age of enlightenment. How did they celebrate holidays? Who were the great writers, artists, musicians and playwrights? This illustrated program will explore prevailing world philosophies and how they shaped the lives of Jews in the Pale of Settlement.

Ms. Miller, founder of the Miller Music and Fine Arts Program has taught at Memphis State University and has designed and presented effective and entertaining programs in the fine arts in this and other communities. She has lectured here at Temple Beth Israel several times and has been warmly welcomed.

**Thursday 2:00pm**

February 4, 11, 18, 2010



**IS THE MESSIAH COMING?  
CHRISTIAN USAGE OF JEWISH TEXTS  
TO VALIDATE THE NEWLY EMERGING RELIGION**  
**Instructor: Rabbi Richard F. Steinbrink**

When the new religion of Christianity was emerging, its leaders knew that it needed to be based on Judaism. As a result, it used our Bible to prove its ideas about Jesus and the Church. We will read those texts and learn how Christians and Jews have read them differently over the millennia.



Rabbi Steinbrink is Rabbi Emeritus of Or Chadash-The Reform Temple of Hunterdon County, NJ and is a graduate of the New York Board of Rabbis' Summer Pastoral Psychiatry Institute at Bellevue Hospital. He frequently teaches an Introduction to Judaism course and has written extensively about Reform Judaism.

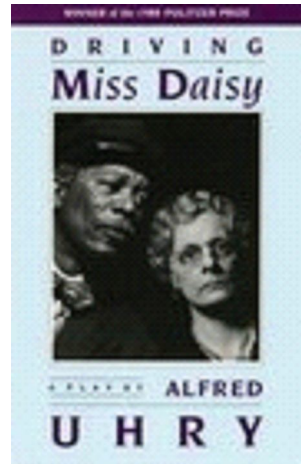
**Wednesday 2:00pm**  
February 24, 2010

**ALFRED UHRY,  
THE SOUTHERN JEWISH PLAYWRIGHT**  
**Instructor: Diane Steinbrink**

The presentation will focus on the life and works of Alfred Uhry and the family members who influenced many of his characters. It will discuss his unique Reform Jewish Southern background as he shared it with the presenter. It will feature monologues from some of his most significant plays, “Driving Miss Daisy,” “Last Night at Ballyhoo” and “Parade”.

Ms Steinbrink has a BA in Speech and Drama from Adelphi University and has served for 17 years as the Coordinator of Plays for Living at Family Service Philadelphia. She was the Producer of the Philadelphia Jewish Family and Children’s Service’s Anne Frank Theater Project for five years, and was a facilitator for this program. She has acted in regional theater, Plays for the Living and has appeared an extra in movies and industrial films.

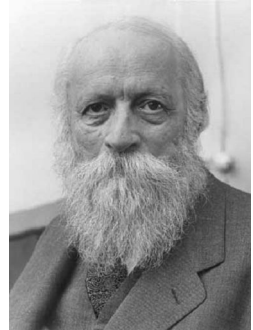
**Thursday 2:00pm**  
February 25, 2010



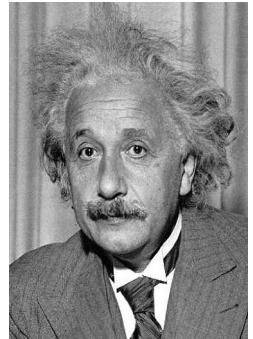
# **BUBER, HERSCHEL AND EINSTEIN: THREE MEN IN SEARCH OF GOD**

**Instructor: Rabbi Albert Lewis**

This presentation explores the lives, loves and longing of three of the Twentieth century's leading Jewish minds. Each of these men sought a relationship with God; and each did so through a different path. Many Jewish adults know of the philosophies of Buber and Herschel; few know the depth of Einstein's theology and philosophy. In this course, Rabbi Lewis defines  $E=mc^2$  in a new paradigm and brings three important Jewish thinkers into the lives of his students/teachers.



Rabbi Lewis is the rabbi of Temple Beth El of Traverse City, MI and the rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanuel of Grand Rapids, MI. He is the author of "The Lord is My Shepard: Psalms to Accompany Us on Our Journey Through Aging", co-author of "Retirement Begins at Forty: Considerations for Rabbis" and author of "Soul Sounds: Reflections on Life".



**2:00pm**

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Wednesday, March 3, 2010



True Religion is real living,  
Living with all one's soul,  
With all one's goodness  
and righteousness.

Albert Einstein

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