

2010-2011

The Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat
Miniversity of Judaism



Temple Beth Israel
567 Bay Isles Road,
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-3428 ~ Website: www.tbi-lbk.org

MINIVERSITY REGISTRATION AND FEE SCHEDULE

The Miniversity Program is offered at no expense to Temple Beth Israel members.

Non-Temple members may register for all courses 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
The entire series of courses	\$60 per person

Please remember to enroll early.

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

Please complete page 3 and return to: Temple Beth Israel,
567 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228

All registrants: If necessary, please include a check payable to "Temple Beth Israel" for the total amount of selected classes together with your registration form.

To Learn is To Grow

REGISTRATION FORM

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Indicate courses you are interested in attending with a check mark.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Ed Rosenthal | Besieged Students: What Hillel is doing to Strengthen Jewish identity on Campus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Killing Kasztner</i> | Award Winning Documentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Howard Simon | Israel: Problems Today, Solutions Tomorrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Richard Klein | Do We Pray What We Mean, and Vice Versa? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbis Rose, Eisenstat, Kasdan | Taking Israel's Temperature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz | Uncovering Idiosyncrasies of the Torah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Thomas Hecht | Is a Two-State Solution a Solution?
&
The History of Islamic Imperialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Michael Eisenstat | Dealing with Concepts From Jewish Tradition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ray Benenson | Particle Physics, God and You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baila Miller | The European Jewish Response to Modernity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Kaufman | More to the Music than Meets the Ear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diane Steinbrink | Arthur Miller, The Moral Jewish Playwright? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joan Jacobs | The Intertwining of Art and Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Massik | Tastes of the Old Country |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Richard Steinbrink | How Archeology Helps Understand the Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elinor Borenstine | President Harry Truman and Eddie Jacobson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Peter Kasdan | Messiah in the Tanach, Siddur & Seder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor Bill Hild | A Baptist Pastor's View of Israel |

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Milton Richter, Co-Chair
Howard Markus, Co-Chair
Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz, Dean
Mimi Edlin, Nancy Eisenstat, Ruth Engman
Earl Gordon, Maye Lavinson,
Dr. Ira Singer, Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat

The Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity of Judaism is proud to present a wide-ranging schedule of classes for 2010-2011.

Outstanding presenters will share stimulating insights regarding Jewish history, culture, religion and current events. You can learn about the so-called God particle physicists are seeking to uncover through the world's largest atomic accelerator, enjoy tasting legendary old world foods from Eastern Europe, discover fascinating scribal peculiarities in the Torah, dig deep into Israel's past to better understand her future and much more.

Take advantage of the myriad opportunities for enrichment the Miniversity offers. Thank you for your participation.



SESSIONS

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Jan 10, 24	Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz	Uncovering Idiosyncrasies of Torah	8
Jan 12, Feb 2	Dr. Thomas Hecht	Is a Two-State Solution a Solution? & The History of Islamic Imperialism	9
Jan 13, 20, 27	Rabbi Michael Eisenstat	Dealing with Concepts From Jewish Tradition	9
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BESIEGED STUDENTS: WHAT HILLEL IS DOING TO STRENGTHEN JEWISH IDENTITY ON CAMPUS

Jewish college students today face a range of campus challenges. Vocal Arab student organizations constantly seek to delegitimize Israel through demonstrations, the dissemination of hateful literature and inflammatory speakers. Jewish students are also often targeted by aggressive Christian missionaries seeking to undermine their religious understanding. Many Jewish students either feel unprepared or hesitant to confront these groups. What is being done to assist these Jewish students is the focus of this two session series.



Session I shares how Hillel is endeavoring to keep students on campus connected to the Jewish community. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Executive Director of the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, will share an interactive program about the organization's efforts to reach, strengthen and inspire Jewish identity. During Session II Hillel student leaders from New College, the Ringling College of Art and Design and Eckerd College will offer a first-hand perspective about Jewish campus life today. You will learn about their involvement in the Birthright Israel Program and their confrontations with Israel's critics.

Instructor: Rabbi Ed Rosenthal Introduced by Mimi Edlin

Dates: Wednesdays, November 3, 10

Time: 2:00 pm

KILLING KASZTNER

By dealing directly with Adolf Eichman, Dr. Israel Kasztner played a key role in saving more than 1,600 Jews during the Holocaust. However, instead of being hailed as a hero he was branded a traitor. Award winning director Gaylen Ross explores the complex loyalties, conflicting allegiances and moral gray areas of Kasztner's story in this penetrating and controversial new documentary. Kasztner's murder in Israel after the war remains a source of inflamed tensions today. The film has garnered numerous prizes at film festivals throughout the world.



Date: Sunday, November 21 Introduced by Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Time: 5:00 pm

ISRAEL: PROBLEMS TODAY, SOLUTIONS TOMORROW

Our class is divided into two sessions. Session I deals with the challenges Israel faces today as she seeks to live her life fostering a peaceful environment for both Israelis and Palestinians, negotiating internal divisions and managing international affairs in often antagonistic arenas.



Section II focuses on solutions Israel's government and people have achieved in resourcefully addressing the myriad concerns both face. Israel's relationship with the United States, Hamas, Fatah, and the entire Middle East will receive special attention. Concerns that arise from anti-Semitism throughout the world will be analyzed and discussed. Your questions and contributions are encouraged at both sessions.

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Simon Introduced by Maye Lavinson

Dates: Wednesdays, December 8, 15

Time: 2:00 pm

“DO WE PRAY WHAT WE MEAN, DO WE MEAN WHAT WE PRAY?”

In these two sessions Rabbi Richard Klein explores potentially problematic liturgical texts for twenty-first century Reform Jews. Rabbi Klein possesses a wealth of experience regarding how we seek to understand certain theologically challenging daily, Shabbat and High Holy Day prayers.



Recently retired from and current Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord, New Hampshire, Rabbi Klein chaired the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Resolution Committee and Committee on Justice and Peace and also served as Vice Chair of the URJ's Commission on Social Action.

Before ordination at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Rabbi Klein earned his B.J. Ed. From Boston Hebrew College and a BA in Engineering and Applied Physics from Harvard.

Instructor: Rabbi Richard Klein Introduced by Earl Gordon

Date: Thursdays, December 16, 23

Time: 2:00 pm

TAKING ISRAEL'S TEMPERATURE

Despite enduring the constant threat of terrorism, ongoing calls for her destruction, being compelled to spend more money, per capita, on security than any other nation and decades of unconscionable defamation by adversaries who question her very right to exist, Israel has not only survived but prospered.

But where is Israel headed in its relationship with the United States and the Palestinians? Are Reform and Conservative Judaism destined to be strangled by the Orthodox ruling authorities? Can Israel remain a cohesive nation of immigrants from around the world without its melting pot boiling over? Will a brain drain deprive Israel's economic and scientific engines of invaluable human resources? Featuring local rabbis, the forum will vigorously debate these questions and more.

Panelists: Rabbis Herbert Rose, Peter Kasdan,
Michael B. Eisenstat
Moderated by Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Date: Thursday, January 6

Time: 2:00 pm

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UNCOVERING IDIOSYNCRASIES OF THE TORAH

In the Torah certain letters are written differently than others, some words are not spoken the way they are written and other words carry mysterious markings.

In this class, Rabbi Katz explores unusual aspects of the written Torah few Jews even know exist. These idiosyncrasies unveil remarkable insights about our most sacred scripture even as they provoke questions about their origin and purpose. Join this fascinating journey into the Torah text.

Instructor: Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Dates: Mondays, January 10, 24

Time: 2:00 pm

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**“IS A TWO-STATE SOLUTION A SOLUTION?”
AND
“THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC IMPERIALISM”**



Founder and current Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Thomas O. Hecht brings a great deal of background and insight to the Middle East conflict. We are pleased that Dr.



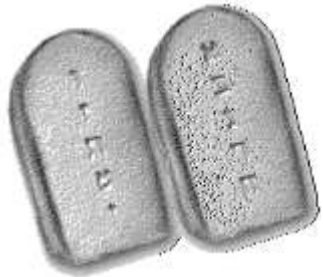
Hecht will once again participate in this year's Miniversity with two stimulating and informative presentations:

Instructor: Dr. Thomas O. Hecht Introduced by Earl Gordon
Date: Wednesday, January 12 and Wednesday, February 2
Time: 2:00 pm

**DEALING WITH CONCEPTS FROM JEWISH TRADITION
I CANNOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE IN**

In certain ways, praying to an almighty God in the wake of the Holocaust appears to be a contradiction. Is it a case of bearing “false witness”?

How can there be a loving God in such a hating world? Did God really choose the Jewish people? Couldn't God have chosen others? The domination of Israel's religious by right-wing Orthodox authorities threatens the existence of alternative streams of Judaism. Are we destined for one monolithic Judaism in Israel?



Instructor: Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat Introduced by Nancy Eisenstat
Dates: Thursdays, January 13, 20, 27
Time: 2:00 pm

PARTICLE PHYSICS, GOD AND YOU

The world's largest particle accelerator recently began full operation just outside Geneva, Switzerland. Physicists are using it to recreate conditions at the time of the Big Bang to study the fundamental building blocks of the universe. They hope to learn more about what has been described as the God particle in determining how the universe began.



Temple Beth Israel member Dr. Ray Benenson will explain in layman's terms how particle acceleration works and the ways it could revolutionize our understanding of the Creation event. A professor of physics at SUNY-ALBANY for 28 years where he specialized in particle accelerators, Dr. Benenson earned his BA in Electrical Engineering from MIT and was awarded a Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin.

Instructor: Dr. Ray Benenson

Introduced by Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Date: Monday, January 31

Time: 2:00 p.m.

EXPLORING THE RESPONSE OF THE EUROPEAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE TO MODERNITY

Popular presenter Baila Miller presents three fascinating multimedia lectures, in Yiddish and English, about the profound contributions Yiddish culture has made not only to the Jewish world but to the world at large.

Session I focuses on the history of the Yiddish language. A Middle High German language of Ashkenazi Jewish origin, Yiddish is still spoken across the globe. Learn about its unique development as a fusion of German dialects with Hebrew, Aramaic, Slavic and traces of Romance languages.

Written using the Hebrew alphabet, Yiddish originated in the Rhineland in the 10th Century and then spread to Central and Eastern Europe and other continents. (con't)



Session II focuses on how Yiddish literature began in the Dark Ages with stories of knights and damsels in distress. This session follows the roots of the literature from its inception to the winning of Isaac Bashevis Singer’s Nobel Prize for Literature.

Session III spotlights how tribulations in the Pale of Settlement created dire political and social consequences. During the late 19th century Yiddish played a key role in the development of modern Jewish political movements and ideas (Zionism, socialism, communism, anarchism, Diaspora nationalism) among masses of eastern European Jews.

Instructor: Baila Miller Introduced by Mimi Edlin

Dates: Thursdays, February 3, 10, 14

Time: 2:00 pm

**MORE TO THE MUSIC THAN MEETS THE EAR
THE MUSIC OF GEORGE GERSHWIN**

Carol Kaufman is well-known for her lectures at *Van Wezel* and elsewhere concerning music performed by the *Sarasota Orchestra* for the past several seasons.

This “All on Gershwin” lecture is deals with the ma as well as his music. Kaufman’s lectures have been extremely popular and have offered insights not usually apparent to the listener.



Instructor: Carol Kaufman

Introduced by Ira Singer

Date: Monday, February 21

Time: 2:00 pm

ARTHUR MILLER, THE MORAL JEWISH PLAYWRIGHT?

In this class, Diane Steinbrink explores the life and works of controversial Jewish playwright, Arthur Miller. Her presentation will feature monologues from some of Miller's most absorbing works including: *Death of a Salesman*, *All My Sons*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Crucible*, and *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan*.



Diane has a long and rich history with the theater. She served as the coordinator of "Philadelphia Plays for Living" for 17 years and produced the acclaimed "Anne Frank Theater Project" for Jewish Family and Children's Services of Philadelphia. She has also acted and directed in local theater, appeared in movies and presented one-person programs across the East Coast.



Instructor: Diane Steinbrink Introduced by Milton Richter

Date: Wednesday, February 9

Time: 2:00 pm

THE INTERTWINING OF ART AND RELIGION

Joan Jacobs, a trained art educator and lecturer, has studied art history and religion for many years. Her company, Art Talk, offers stimulating programs that highlight the artistic treasures of Western Civilization. An avid photographer, she has travelled the world taking images of masterpieces in assembling an extraordinary collection.



Instructor: Joan Jacobs Introduced by Ruth Engman

Date: Wednesday, February 16

Time: 2:00 pm

TASTES OF THE OLD COUNTRY

Schav, gribines, schmaltz, p'tcha and tsimmis were beloved Eastern European Jewish foods. Why were they cherished? How did they become so identified with Jews? How were they prepared and served? These questions will be answered at this special Jewish Old Country cooking/tasting/learning class. Temple member and chef extraordinaire, Charlotte Massik, shares these foods and more.



Yes, we know a lot of cholesterol is involved. But that's only if you make a meal of these foods. This is just a tasting. Besides, Jewish gastronomic history needs to be fully experienced if its significance is to be truly appreciated.

Instructor: Charlotte Massik

Introduced by Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Date: Thursday, February 17

Time: 2:00 pm

CLAY AND COPPER: HOW ARCHEOLOGY HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

The last one-hundred and fifty years have yielded many spectacular archeological finds. Using this information, Rabbi Richard Steinbrink explores the physical evidence for events depicted in the Bible.

Questions he will pose include: Did Jacob and Rachel really possess idols? Were the Israelites actually slaves in Egypt? Was there an Exodus? Just how great was King Solomon? Were Judeans actually held captive in Babylonia?



Instructor: Rabbi Richard Steinbrink

Introduced by Howard Marcus

Dates: Thursday, February 24

Time: 2:00 pm

FRIENDS FOREVER, PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN AND EDDIE JACOBSON

Eddie Jacobson, a traveling salesman from Kansas City, played a crucial role in the founding of the modern state of Israel. Jacobson and Harry S. Truman were friends from Missouri. After successfully managing a canteen together during basic training they opened a men's clothing store following WWI. Though it failed Jacobson remained close to Truman, often visiting him in Washington when he served in the Senate and in the Oval Office.



In March of 1948 Jewish leaders prevailed on Jacobson to persuade Truman to meet with Dr. Chaim Weizman, leader of the Zionist movement. A couple of months later, the U.S. became the first nation to recognize the new state of Israel. Jacobson's daughter, Elinor Borenstine, who lives in Sarasota and sits on the Honorary Board of the Truman Library, will share fascinating anecdotes regarding her father's relationship with President Truman.

Instructor: Elinor Borenstine

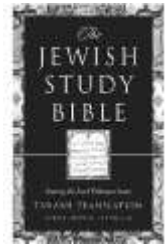
Introduced by Ruth Gorton

Date: Thursday, March 3

Time: 2:00 p.m.

MESSIAH CONCEPTS IN THE *TANACH*, *SIDDUR* AND *SEDER*

Living, as we do, in a country dominated by the Christian faith in all of its various denominations and socially “bombarded” by Christian theology in the pre-Christmas and Easter seasons, relatively few American Jews spend any time at all considering the possibility and the timing of the “Jewish Messiah” - the *Mashiah*. Yet, our liturgy, both home and synagogue based, is sprinkled with vague messages about this special visitor’s potential arrival. We will examine references to the *Mashiah* found in the Bible, our synagogue liturgy, in the *Midrash* and in the Passover *Haggadah*.



Instructor: Rabbi Peter E. Kasdan

Introduced by Milton Richter

Date: Wednesdays March 2 16, 23

Time: 2:00 p.m.

A BAPTIST PASTOR'S VIEW OF ISRAEL

Bill Hild has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Sarasota, a prominent congregation located downtown for more than a hundred years, since 1997.

Pastor Hild holds a keen interest in and affection for Israel. He has pursued graduate work in archeology at Hebrew University and participated in several archaeological excavations in the country, most recently last summer.

He has also led numerous groups to Israel and travelled extensively throughout the Middle East.

A native of Savannah, he received his BA in Religion at Carson-Newman College and a Master's of Divinity from Baptist Theology Seminar in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Pastor Hild will share the Baptist perspective on the Middle East today and speak about his own personal experience of Israel's history and people.

While he looks forward to providing a Christian leader's outlook he is also eager to learn more about Israel from a Jewish perspective. There will be ample time for questions following his presentation.

Instructor: Pastor Bill Hild Introduced by Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz

Date: Thursday, March 10

Time: 2:00 pm



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