

TEMPLE SHOLOM OF CHICAGO



Finding Sholom
Reaching Out to Interfaith Families and Seekers

Jewish Enrichment Series

5769

2008-2009

*A special program for interfaith families,
those interested in exploring or choosing Judaism,
Jews dealing with issues of Jewish identity
and everyone seeking more information and knowledge about
integrating Judaism into their daily lives.*

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Shalom!

Welcome to another wonderful year of ***Finding Shalom*** programs! We have focused our offerings in response to your needs. Join us this year as we continue to offer conversations and events that will inform and enrich your Jewish journey.

Finding Shalom programming serves to welcome those interested in exploring or choosing Judaism, interfaith families and couples contemplating intermarriage into our congregational family, and creating a feeling of comfort and belonging within the Jewish community. We hope that it will do so for you.

As a synagogue we are committed to serving all members of our community by enriching their lives through the enduring values of Judaism. We are happy to have you as part of our congregational family.

Rabbi Aaron M. Petuchowski

Rabbi Taron Tachman

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

Cantor Aviva Katzman

For further questions contact Rabbi Shoshanah Conover at rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org or 773-525-4707 ext 342.

Helpful Resources

Dealing with interfaith issues can be difficult at times. And, finding relevant information and resources to help you through the matter can also be a challenge. The Union for Reform Judaism provides helpful information on their website www.urj.org/outreach. We have also compiled the following list of resources that may help you begin the journey for answers. Many of these books can be found in Temple Shalom's library. Topics include:

Conversion - Choosing Judaism

Berkowitz, Rabbi Allan L., and Moskovitz, Patti. ***Embracing the Covenant***. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996.

Diamant, Anita. ***Choosing a Jewish Life***. Schocken Books Inc., 1998.

Kukoff, Lydia. ***Choosing Judaism***. URJ Press, 1981.

Lamm, Maurice. ***Becoming a Jew***. Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1991.

Intermarriage

Cowan, Paul with Cowan, Rachel. ***Mixed Blessings: Overcoming the Stumbling Blocks in an Interfaith Marriage***. Penguin Books, Inc., 1989.

Friedland, Ronnie, and Case, Edmund, editors. ***The Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life: An Interfaith Family.com Handbook***. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001.

Keen, Jim. ***Inside Intermarriage: A Christian Partner's Perspective on Raising a Jewish Family***. New York: URJ Press, 2006.

Introduction to Judaism and Jewish Living

Einstein, Rabbi Stephen J. and Kukoff, Lydia. ***Every Person's Guide to Judaism***. UAHC Press, 1989.

Knobel, Rabbi Peter (ed.) ***Gates of the Seasons: A Guide to the Jewish Year***. CCAR Press, 1992.

Syme, Rabbi Daniel B. ***The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living***. UAHC Press, 1988.

Jewish Parenting and Grandparenting

Abramowitz, Yosef I., and Silverman, Rabbi Susan. ***Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays, and Values for Today's Parents and Children***. Golden Books, 1997.

Diamant, Anita, and Kushner, Karen. ***How to Be a Jewish Parent***. Schocken Books, Inc., 2000.

Fuchs-Kreimer, ***Parenting as a Spiritual Journey***. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1998.

Mogel, Wendy. ***The Blessing of a Skinned Kneec: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children***. Scribner Publishing, 2001.

For further questions contact Rabbi Shoshanah Conover at rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1534.

Interfaith Programming

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

December: A Season of Light

Thursday, December 11, 2008, 7-9pm

Join us for an interesting and informational evening as we provide an opportunity for interfaith couples to meet each other and freely share winter holiday experiences, challenges, questions and solutions. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of Chanukah as well as practical tools and resources for creating a meaningful winter celebration in the home that reflects your personal and cultural understandings of the meaning of light. We invite those struggling with these issues as well as couples who have found good solutions to share. It's a great evening of discussion, noshing, and bonding.

Celebrating Your Jewish Wedding with Your Interfaith Family

February 8, 2009, 12:30-2pm

You're getting married—*Mazal Tov!*
And now you have to plan a wedding—*Oy!*

Let Temple Sholom help you navigate through the wedding planning process. Gather with Rabbi Shoshanah Conover and other interfaith couples to discuss how to comfortably celebrate one of the most important days of your life. We'll talk about how to incorporate your non-Jewish family into your wedding, providing suggestions for how to help your guests better understand Jewish wedding traditions and symbolism. And of course, we will eat.

- * Sample hors d'oeuvres from kosher wedding caterers and take a list of great Chicago caterers home with you.
- * Take home a helpful how-to wedding planning guide.
- * Enjoy samples of Jewish wedding programs.
- * Connect with a member of our clergy who can help you through the wedding process.
- * Bond with others while sharing the stress and the laughs of planning a wedding.

Calendar of Events

2008-2009

Special Services

Prepare for the High Holy Days—Special Shabbat Service

Friday, September 12, 6:15 p.m

Join Temple Sholom for an evening of worship as our clergy highlights prayers and themes from the HHD Services both musically and textually. This special *Shabbat* Service will help us prepare for the worship experience during the High Holy Days. Join us and slip into the right spiritual mood a little early!

Finding Sholom Shabbat

Friday, January 9, 2009, 6:15pm

Come with your family to enjoy this special Shabbat Service featuring a panel discussion about the joys and challenges of raising a Jewish family in an interfaith marriage and converting to Judaism.

Learning Shabbat

*Fridays, November 7, January 2, February 13, March 6, April 3, May 1
6:15pm*

Do you ever feel left out during the service because you don't understand the meaning of the prayers? Do you question why we stand up, sit down, bow or stand on our toes at different moments of the service? Do you already know a lot about the prayers, but are looking for a way to feel more spiritually connected to them? *Learning Shabbat* is an opportunity for all of our congregants and friends to feel more connected to the Shabbat service through our prayers. Once a month, our clergy will give spiritual and scholarly explanations of the prayers that will serve to illuminate each participant's worship experience.

Learning Opportunities*

Introduction to Judaism

***Sundays, beginning September 14 and ending May 10,
10:00-10:45am***

Explore holidays and festivals of the Jewish calendar and Jewish life. Discover the meaning, theology, and Torah that underlie them all. Look for experiential learning opportunities throughout the year including a special Shabbat dinner, lunch in the Sukkah, a How - To Passover Seder Workshop, and Havdalah by the lake.

Hebrew Aleph-Introduction to Hebrew

***Sundays, beginning September 14 and ending May 10,
10:50-11:30am***

Learn the basics of Hebrew on Sunday mornings at 10:50 am. This beginning class will focus on learning the Hebrew alphabet, basic reading, and vocabulary. NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE NEEDED.

Shabbat Prayer and Introduction to *Mishkan T'filah*, the New Reform Prayerbook

***Sundays, beginning September 14 and ending May 10,
11:45am-12:15pm***

To celebrate Temple Sholom's exciting launch of the New Reform Prayerbook, *Mishkan T'filah*, this class will provide an opportunity for participants to enrich their knowledge of the Shabbat prayers and enliven their prayer experience. Over the course of the year we will examine the themes, history, and big ideas of Shabbat prayers. We will place special emphasis on discussing the new innovations of *Mishkan T'filah*. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary.

*** For a complete listing of offerings in our Adult Education Program, see our Adult Ed Brochure**

Save the Date! May 15-17, 2009

Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Daniel C. Matt From Kabbalah to the Big Bang: Ancient Wisdom and Contemporary Spirituality

Daniel Matt will introduce us to the Kabbalah and explain some of its central and exciting ideas, such as the feminine aspect of God (*Shekhinah*) and discovering the Divine spark in the material world. We will study passages from the *Zohar*, the masterpiece of Jewish mysticism. Dr. Matt will also explore parallels between the mystical understanding of Creation and the scientific theory of the Big Bang. He will address the question of how we can harmonize these two approaches - the scientific and the spiritual.

Topics for the weekend include:*

Friday Night - "*Shekhinah*: The Feminine Half of God"

Shabbat Day - "Raising the Sparks: How to Discover God in the Material World"

Sunday Morning - "God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality"

**Topics are subject to change*

Lunch with the Clergy - Godwrestling Round 2
Sundays, October 25, January 11, March 1, April 26,
12:30pm

Enjoy these intimate sessions with Rabbis Petuchowski, Tachman and Conover and Cantor Katzman as we wrestle with some of the greatest questions of faith: What is God's relationship to the world? What does God want of us? Does God still communicate with us today? How can I know God?