

Adult Education at Temple Sholom

2018-19 Guest Scholar Series



The Holocaust On Film: An Overview

Andrea Gronvall

SUNDAY | OCT. 14
10:45 – 11:45 AM

In anticipation of Temple Sholom's trip this fall to Poland and Germany to commemorate the 80th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, this class offers a concise overview of cinematic representations of the *Shoah*. From Carol Reed's *Night Train to Munich* (1940) to Chris Weitz's *Operation Finale* (2018), we will survey the diverse ways in which American and European directors of both fictional features and documentaries have approached the challenges of filming the Holocaust. We will also touch upon the controversies that some of those efforts have generated, part of a cultural debate that is still ongoing.



Americans and the Holocaust

Daniel Greene

SUNDAY | OCT. 21
10:45 – 11:45 AM

Northwestern University history professor Daniel Greene recently curated an exhibition on America's response to the Holocaust for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in

Washington, D.C. The exhibition examines what Americans knew about the persecution and murder of European Jews as it occurred, and it prompts visitors to think about Americans' responsibilities to refugees and persecuted peoples abroad. Greene will discuss the exhibition and lead a discussion about the issues the exhibition seeks to raise.



Becoming A Cosmopolitan: What It Means to Be a Human Being in the New Millennium

Jason D. Hill

SUNDAY | OCT. 28
10:45 – 11:45 AM

DePaul University philosophy professor Dr. Hill will explain how it is possible to re-socialize the self from its tribal origins in race, ethnicity, and nationality to one that is thoroughly oriented towards the universe at large. The cosmopolitan self is a self that finds affiliation and commonality with humanity and fulfills its ethical obligations to repair a broken world. Taking him or herself to be a citizen of the world and a lover of humanity, the cosmopolitan man or woman engages in a lifelong process of moral becoming with his or her fellow human-being.

Jewish Veterans Day Program

SUNDAY | NOV. 11
10:45 – 11:45 AM



Ezra, Nehemiah and the Return from Exile

Rabbi Steven Bob

SUNDAY | NOV. 18
9:30 – 10:30 AM

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the return from the first exile in ancient Babylonia. They contain the foundational ideas for our modern sense of Jewish identity. Living after the modern return from the second exile, we will explore the meaning of Jewish existence in light of these texts from the early Second Temple period. As Jews we tend to focus on the sacred texts we read during services: *Torah*, *Haftarot*, *Megillot* and Psalms. In this session we will explore the important contemporary lessons found in these less familiar sacred texts.



Why Judaism Matters: Letters of a Liberal Rabbi to his Children and the Millennial Generation

John Rosove

SUNDAY | NOV. 18
10:45 – 11:45 AM

Presented in the form of letters from a rabbi to his sons, Rabbi Rosove's book "*Why Judaism Matters*" is common sense guidance and a road map for a new generation of young men and women who find Jewish orthodoxy, tradition, issues, and beliefs impenetrable in 21st Century society. By intimately illustrating how the tenets of Judaism still apply in our modern world, Rabbi John Rosove gives heartfelt direction to the sons and daughters of Reform Jews everywhere.



"One Couple Two Faiths: Stories of Love and Religion" A Program Addressing Interfaith Couples and their Families

Dr. Marion Usher

MONDAY | NOV. 19 | 6:45 PM

Dr. Marion Usher joins us to discuss her new book *One Couple Two Faiths: Stories of Love and Religion*, a guide to interfaith relationships. Dr. Usher, creator of "Love and Religion: An Interfaith Workshop for Jews and their Partners," has worked with over 700 interfaith couples in the past 25 years. She will share her observations of the changes occurring in our Jewish community and the work that still needs to be accomplished to be considered an inclusive community. Co-sponsored by Interfaith Family Chicago.

To register, visit sholomchicago.org/adult-education.



Miracles of the Ordinary

Rabbi Michael Zedek

SUNDAYS | DEC. 2, 9, 16
10:45 – 11:45 AM

You may have noticed a rather peculiar phenomenon in the Hebrew Bible; namely every time a so-called miracle occurs, none of the characters seem

to draw the “correct” lesson – which must be the lesson. We will take a look at what that circumstance suggests for biblical times and, even more importantly, for our own moment.



Tarboot v'Omanut: Adult Edition

Leaving Iran: A Glimpse into the Persian Mind

Isaac Yomtovian

SUNDAY | JAN. 13
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Yomtovian was born to a middle-class family in Tehran in 1948 and has lived in the U.S. since 1971. His memoir covers his life in Iran, Israel, and the U.S. Yomtovian attended a public elementary school in Iran and has much to tell about being one of the few Jews among a Muslim majority. He also describes the power of Muslim religious authorities on the majority population and their contempt of Jews. In 1966 his father decided to move the family to Israel, and Yomtovian himself, who originally planned to stay in Iran, followed shortly after. The last part of the book describes the author's life in the U.S. and illustrates the combination of his Americanization with the retention of certain Iranian traits, such as his attitude toward his daughters' social life.

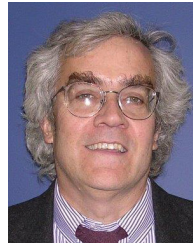


Rooted Cosmopolitans: Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century

James Loeffler

SUNDAY | JAN. 27
10:45 – 11:45 AM

The year 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of two momentous events in 20th century history: the birth of the State of Israel and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Both remain tied together in the ongoing debates about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, global antisemitism, and American foreign policy. Yet the surprising connections between Zionism and the origins of international human rights are completely unknown today. In his riveting book, James Loeffler explores this controversial history through the stories of five remarkable Jewish founders of international human rights, following them from the prewar *shtetls* of eastern Europe to the postwar United Nations, a journey that includes the Nuremberg and Eichmann trials, the founding of Amnesty International, and the UN resolution of 1975 labeling Zionism as racism. The result is a book that challenges long-held assumptions about the history of human rights and offers a startlingly new perspective on the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



History of Jewish Chicago: Jews and the Irish

Jim Barrett

SUNDAY | MAR. 10
10:45 – 11:45 AM

Historically, Irish Catholics and Jews have had their conflicts – on the streets of Chicago and other cities. But beginning with vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley song and dance teams and climaxing in a series of spectacularly successful plays in the 1920s, the Jewish/Irish pairing was extremely popular. Why? What did two groups who might seem so different from one another have in common, and what did this tell us about living together in a diverse city like Chicago?”



City Congregations JUF Event: “Antisemitism: Here and Now”

Dr. Deborah Lipstadt

WEDNESDAY | MAR. 13
7:00 PM

Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt, professor of Holocaust Studies at Emory University and the author of six books, will share her insights on today's virulent antisemitism of the political right and left, and what can be done about it. Her newest book, *Antisemitism: Here And Now* will be published in early 2019.

Scholar-in-Residence



Proving the Existence of Biblical Characters

Lawrence J. Mykytiuk, PhD

MAR. 29 – 31

“Thanks to a unique research system, 53 individuals in the Hebrew Bible have been proven as genuine historical characters through material evidence of their existence. The system's creator, Lawrence Mykytiuk, an associate professor of library science at Purdue University, calls it “a way to develop historicity.”

It sounds like an unlikely project: a professor in the Midwest verifying ancient names from the Mideast. Yet Mykytiuk's training as a librarian and interest in the Bible help him do what he says on-the-scene archaeologists are too busy to do – pore through journals and books, scrutinize inscriptions discovered on digs and attempt to match names in the historical record with names in the Bible” – The Times of Israel, August 2017.

[timesofisrael.com/researcher-gives-seal-of-approval-to-53-biblical-characters-existence](https://www.timesofisrael.com/researcher-gives-seal-of-approval-to-53-biblical-characters-existence)

To register, visit sholomchicago.org/adult-education.