

## **Teshuva**

Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein  
The Gemara's Repentance

Just a few pages in Yoma have the bulk of what the Talmud had to say about repentance. Rambam famously collated these into his Laws of Repentance, but we're going to go back to the original, to see what the Gemara itself, and Rambam's predecessor, Rif, thought we needed to know about teshuva.

Gidon Rothstein has semicha from Yeshiva University and a PhD in Post-Biblical Jewish History and Literature from Harvard. He has taught at all ages and stages of the educational process, and is the author of Jewishly-themed fiction and non-fiction, most recently "The Judaism of the Poskim: Responsa and the Nature of Orthodox Judaism."

Dr. Yardeana Osband  
Exploring the Musaf Prayers: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – Rituals, Themes, and Spiritual Significance

Yardaena Osband, MD, is a pediatrician and a teacher. She hails from Boston. She studied for two years at Midreshet Lindenbaum, received her BA in Jewish Studies and Music at Stern College for Women, and attended medical school at the Sackler School for Medicine. She has taught in many schools and synagogues and is the co-host of the Daf Yomi podcast, Talking Talmud. Yardeana is currently a student in the International Halakha Scholars Program at Ohr Torah Stone. She serves on the boards of ORA - Organization for the Resolution of Agunot and The Eden Center, and is a founder of the Orthodox Leadership Project. Yardeana came on aliya 3 years ago with her husband David Glazer and 5 children.

Judy Klitsner  
The Paradox of Rebecca, Unsteady Camel Whisperer  
In this four-part series, we will focus on the surprising, often contradictory, character of our most iconoclastic matriarch, Rebecca. Through close readings of her narrative, we will uncover layers of her complex, ever-evolving, character; we will then expand our grasp by comparing aspects of her story to those of other biblical figures, as presented in parallel texts.

Rabbi David Levin Kruss  
Yom Kippur Day with Ishay Ribo, Leonard Cohen, and Paul Robeson  
We will interplay the traditional liturgy with popular music and see how both inform and give meaning to each other. We will look at Unetaneh Tokef and Leonard Cohen's Who By Fire; the service of the High Priest and Ishay Ribo's Seder Ha'avoda; Jonah and the many songs it inspired; the Martyrology and the Partisan Song.  
Rabbanit Michal Kohane

New beginnings: The Jewish Calendar and Other Fascinating Sugiyot from Tractate Rosh Hashana.

The Babylonian Talmud has dedicated a whole tractate for Rosh Hashana with numerous insightful discussions. We will explore 2-3 of those to learn about our calendar and its beauty. No previous background needed; texts in Hebrew and English.

Rabbanit Michal Kohane is a graduate of Yeshivat Maharat, currently teaching Torah and Talmud. She holds degrees in Land of Israel Studies, Education and Psychology. Her first book, "Hachug," was published in Israel in 2016 and her weekly blog on Torah and life can be found at [www.miko284.com](http://www.miko284.com).

Rabbi Michael Hattin  
Exploring Sefer Yonah: Themes of Repentance and Redemption

Sefer Yona is traditionally read as the Haftara for the afternoon service of Yom Kippur. This short work, cryptic and profound, seems to be composed of equal parts history, allegory and fantasy. We will carefully study the book of Yona using the foundational texts of the midrash and the medieval commentaries, as well as the modern tools of literary analysis, as we attempt to answer the most mysterious question of all: why does Yona steadfastly refuse to undertake his mission to Nineveh?

Fall  
MONDAY  
Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield

*Classical Wisdom on Moral and Spiritual Growth: Exploring R. Bachya Ibn Pakuda, Maimonides, R. Moshe Cordovero, Ramchal and others*

Together we will explore Classic Medieval and Early Modern thinkers for their thoughts on ethical improvement, spiritual growth, and becoming our best selves.

Dr. Shana Rosenblatt Mauer  
THE EARLY YEARS: WRITING AS JEWS, WRITING AS AMERICANS  
Gratitude, joy, disappointment, confusion and hope were just some of the dominant reactions Jews wrote about in describing their arrival and lives in the United States in the decades just before and after the turn of the 20th century. In this course, we will consider the writing of men and women who, in their

writing, tried to make sense of these various responses and understand what this period meant for them as immigrants and outsiders, as well as bona fide members of American society. Writers to be discussed include Rebecca Gratz, Emma Lazarus, Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yeziarska, Rose Gollup Cohen, Mary Antin, and others.

## TUESDAY

Rabbi Dr. Howard Markose  
Deception and Subterfuge in the Tanakh

One element of drama found in many places in the Biblical text that is often glossed over is a character's use of deception in order to achieve their goals. In this course we will examine reported (and possibly unreported) incidents in our Tanach in which one or more characters utilizes questionable methods of deceit and subterfuge in the fulfillment of their objectives. Please note that while the title of the course is the same in both semesters, the material that will be presented in the second session (January to March) will be new. Anyone who wishes to join the class in the spring (beginning in January) is most welcome.

Rabbi David Levin-Kruss

### **Nineteen Ways To Speak to God**

Each one of the blessings of the Amida has a different theme. Each is a different way to speak to G-d and each opens up a different world. We will closely read the text in the siddur, study the sources it is based upon, and then explore how these ideas are expressed in philosophy, psychology and culture.

## THURSDAY

Dr. Rachel Korazim  
From the Place Where We are Right: Celebrating Yehuda Amichai's 100th Anniversary

Yehuda Amichai - possibly one of the most translated Hebrew poets and a major poetic voice of the 20th century worldwide.

In our course we will look into his poetry from different thematic angles: Biblical motifs, War and Commemoration, Jerusalem and much more.

Rabbi Michael Hattin  
Sefer Yehoshua

Sefer Yehoshua is the story of Israel's entry into Canaan. It continues the narrative of the Torah that ended with Moshe's death, introducing us to the great challenges faced by both Joshua as well as people of Israel as they embrace their destiny in the new land. We will carefully read the

primary text before considering ancient as well as modern commentaries. We may discover that the book of Joshua, composed thousands of years ago, is more relevant than ever.

Rabbi Dr. Reuven Kimelman

The History and Poetics of the Daily Liturgy from Mah Tovv to Yishtabah

The eight sessions focus on the historical emergence of each prayer and its poetics as the key to the unlocking of its spiritual meaning.

Reuven Kimelman is the former rabbi of Beth Abraham, the Sephardic Congregation of New England in Brookline, MA., and Professor of Classical Judaica at Brandeis University. His Ph. D. is from Yale University. He is the author of the Hebrew book, *The Mystical Meaning of 'Lekhah Dodi'* and *Kabbalat Shabbat*, published by The Hebrew University, and the forthcoming *The Rhetoric of Jewish Prayer: A Historical and Literary Commentary of the Prayer Book*, published by Littman Library of Jewish Civilization. His audio course books are *The Hidden Poetry of the Jewish Prayer Book*, and *The Moral Meaning of the Bible*.

## SPRING

Dr. Shana Rosenblatt Mauer

**JEWISH STORYTELLING: FROM HEDER TO HEBREW SCHOOL AND BEYOND**

The experience of education, specifically, but not only a Jewish education, has been a subject that has intrigued Jewish writers for almost 150 years. Some recall the rebbe and his lessons with nostalgia. Others think of heder as the springboard to rebellion. The schoolroom, heder and yeshiva were often

explored as a rite of passage, one that could influence the trajectory of one's life, frequently in unexpected ways. This course will be a journey, studying literary texts that focus on Jews, Jewish learning and the centrality of education in Jewish writing. Writers to be discussed include Mendele

Mokher Sforim, Philip Roth, Grace Paley, Gary Shteyngart, Henry Roth, Shalom Auslander, Chaim Grade, and others.

**Rabbi David Levin-Kruss**

**Tiny Tanach Tales II**

THE NYT has run a column for years called Tiny Love Stories in which people tell a full story in less than one hundred words. This is the bible version. We'll be examining narratives that are up to 100 words in the Tanakh and learning how sometimes less is more. The classes are all new and do not repeat any of the topics taught last year. Each class stands alone and one need not have attended previous classes or the previous course to participate and enjoy.

Rabbi Michael Hattin

Sefer Shoftim

A burning question for any society is: who is fit to lead? In Sefer Shoftim we meet many Israelite leaders who guided the people over the course of a critical span: the first centuries after Israel's entry into the land. Some of these so-called judges were fantastically successful while others were abject failures. Their stories, comprising the book of Judges, continue to offer us much to ponder today.