

PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM

Opportunities for Adult Learning

SPRING 2017 / 5777

RABBI DR. DAVID DALIN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23, 2017



Rabbi Dr. David Dalin, a widely-published scholar of American Jewish history and politics, has taught Jewish history at several universities. He is the author, co-author, or editor of eleven books, including *Religion and State in the American Jewish Experience* (with Prof. Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University) and *The Presidents of the United States and the Jews*. He has completed a forthcoming book, *The Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court, from Brandeis to Kagan*, scheduled to be published by Brandeis University Press in March, 2017.

Rabbi Dalin received his BA from the University of California at Berkeley. He holds an MA and a PhD from Brandeis University, as well as an MA from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he also received his rabbinical ordination.

Jews & Baseball

Friday, April 21 7:45 PM (after services)

In this talk, Dr. David Dalin, who has lectured and written extensively on the history of Jews and Baseball, will discuss the lives and legacies of the two greatest Jewish players in the history of baseball, and the only two Jews to have been elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax.

Presidents of the United States: FROM LINCOLN TO OBAMA (AND BEYOND)

Sunday, April 23 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

In this talk, based on his book *The Presidents of the United States and the Jews*, Dr. David Dalin will examine the role and experience of Jews in various Presidential administrations from Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama. He will conclude his talk with a brief analysis of the Jewish vote and issues of Jewish concern in the presidential election of 2016.

Rabbi Dan Feder

Rabbi Lisa Delson

Rabbi Molly Plotnik
Director of Education

Cantor Barry Reich

Karen Wisialowski
Chief Community Officer

Allison Steckley
Director of Early Childhood
Education

Josh Mason-Barkin, RJE
Director of Communications

Lauren Schlezinger
President

Erica Carmel & Yash Snider
Chairs of Adult Learning

**Peninsula Temple Sholom
Adult Learning Programs**
1655 Sebastian Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
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sholom.org

PURPOSE/VISION PTS is an inclusive Jewish community where everyone can find peace, inspiration, and their own connection to Judaism.

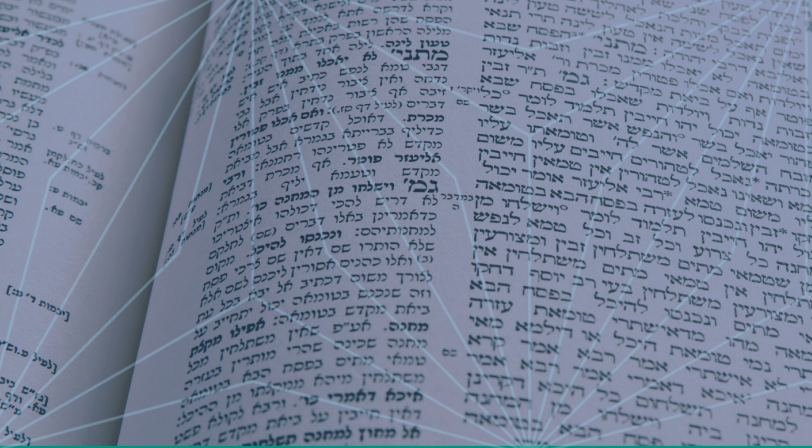
MISSION Whether in the synagogue, each other's homes, or the world beyond, Peninsula Temple Sholom creates a sacred space for those who are part of it.

Please note that the dates and times of the events and classes in this brochure are subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit sholom.org

PTS' adult learning programs are funded by a grant from the Jack and Elisa Klein Foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund.

CHECK INSIDE FOR THE SPRING SCHEDULE OF COURSES!



Sacred Texts

TORAH TODAY

- ☐ Saturdays
- 🕒 9:00–10:00AM

Start your Shabbat morning with your rabbis. You'll be led through a discussion-based study of the week's portion. Be ready to engage in lively dialogue and debate as we invoke commentaries both traditional and current and seek anchors in the Torah for our modern, mobile lives. There's nothing like Shabbat morning Torah study.

BACK TO THE SOURCE

- ☐ Wednesdays
- 🕒 11:00AM

Led by Rabbi Dan Feder

A thoughtful, verse-by-verse examination of the context behind Torah teachings, with Rabbi Feder. In small-group discussion we find real connections with the text, and with each other. Make it a regular part of your week!

MORNING TALMUD STUDY: BERAKHOT

- ☐ Wednesdays
- 🕒 8:15–9:15AM

📍 Il Piccolo Caffe on Broadway in Burlingame

Led by Rabbi Molly Plotnik

Using the new Koren Talmud with an accessible translation, interesting commentary and fun illustrations, we'll delve into the world of Talmud together. No Talmud experience necessary — this class is for everyone as we study rabbinic thoughts on spirituality, dreams, prayer, and more. Come every week or drop by when you can.

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

- ☐ Thursdays, Feb. 2–April 6, 2017 (except Feb. 23 and March 16)
- 🕒 1:00–2:00PM

Led by Rabbi Dan Feder

The Book of Ezra (also known as Ezra-Nehemiah) tells the story of the group who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. It's both a chronological and spiritual history of that generation, and recounts their (perhaps still relevant) struggles with Jewish communal identity and in understanding Torah as a set of laws for governing society.

Judaism in the Modern World

HOT TOPICS

OPTION 1 THURSDAYS

- ☐ Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 16, April 27, May 25

- 🕒 12:00–1:00PM

📍 the Law Offices of Norman Harris, Howard Ave., Burlingame

OPTION 2 @PTS SUNDAYS

- ☐ Feb. 26, March 26, April 30, May 14

- 🕒 10:00–11:00AM

📍 PTS

Both groups led by Rabbi Dan Feder

This lively roundtable discussion takes a contemporary look at Jewish thought and experience. Topics range from modern Jewish life and Israel to Jewish holidays, current events, and more. This is the ultimate brown bag lunch/brunch - you supply the food, Rabbi Feder supplies the food for thought.

LIBERAL ZIONISM: TALKING WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT ISRAEL

- ☐ Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017
- 🕒 10:30AM–12:00PM

Led by Rabbi Dan Feder

There's a lot of anti-Israel rhetoric in the world and it's hard to know how to broach the topic with our kids. Join Rabbi Feder for a discussion on how to instill the Jewish value of *ahavat Zion*, a love of Israel, that is deep and true but not blind to the complications of the Middle East.

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEIGHBORS: A COMPARATIVE RELIGION SAMPLER

- ☐ Sundays, Feb. 5–May 21, 2017 (concurrent with Religious School calendar)
- 🕒 12:30–2:00PM, with varying times for occasional site visits

Led by Noah Weisel

Delve into the history and practice of various world religions through the lens of the modern Jewish experience. The class will combine classroom discussion and first-hand learning guided by hosts of different faiths.

This adult group parallels the ninth-grade comparative religion course and will accompany them on visits to Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim houses of worship.

Spirituality

MINDFUL PARENTING: INTRO TO MUSSAR

- ☐ Sundays, May 7, 14, and 21, 2017
- 🕒 10:00–11:00AM

Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson

Drawing on the rich tradition of Jewish ethical literature (musar), Rabbi Lisa Delson will dedicate each session to one of the middot (Jewish virtues) of parenting as examined through the lenses of mindfulness, spirituality, and Torah.

COUNTING THE OMER

- ☐ Thursdays, April 20, April 27, May 4, and May 11, 2017
- 🕒 1:00–2:00PM

Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson

During the 49 days after Passover we count the *omer* to spiritually prepare to receive Torah at Shavuot. All materials provided in class. All are welcome each week or on a drop-in basis.

Judaism 101: Back-to-Basics

CONTINUING HEBREW

OPTION 1 SUNDAYS

- ☐ Feb. 5–May 21, 2017
- 🕒 10:30AM–12:00PM
- 💰 \$20 for textbook

Instructor TBA

Have you ever thought during services, “It’s a little weird that I have no idea what I’m saying when I read Hebrew.”? If so, this course is for you. It’s for adults who can decode (“read”) Hebrew at a basic level and want to continue building that skill while gaining a better understanding of what Jews say when they pray.

HAFTARAH TROPE

- ☐ Thursdays, Feb. 2, 2017–May 18, 2017
- 🕒 6:00–7:00PM
- 💰 \$25 for textbook

Led by Rabbi Molly Plotnik

Learn how to chant Haftarah trope. Students should have basic Hebrew reading skills, but no musical skills required.

Cultural Arts

ONE BAY, ONE BOOK: A PROJECT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND JEWISH LEARNINGWORKS

- ☐ Monday, Feb. 13, 2017
- 🕒 7:00–9:00PM

Facilitated by Rabbi Lisa Delson

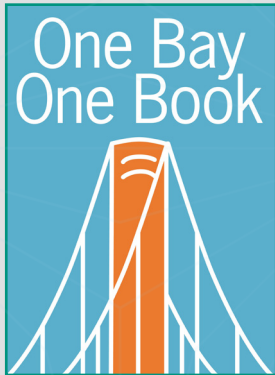
PTS hosts our annual book discussion in conjunction with Jewish centers throughout the community. This year’s book is *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon. Join us for this lively gathering.

FAMILY HAGGADAH WRITING WORKSHOP

- ☐ Thursdays, March 23, March 30, and April 6, 2017
- 🕒 7:30–9:00PM

Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson

The Passover Haggadah is designed to help us tell the story of the Israelites exodus from slavery in Egypt to freedom. The 15 steps of the seder are set but the material surrounding it, how we tell the story, is up to us. Join Rabbi Delson in a three-week Haggadah Writing Workshop, where we will see how the seder is formed, look at other sources, and inspire each other to come up with a meaningful and engaging seder for your family and friends.

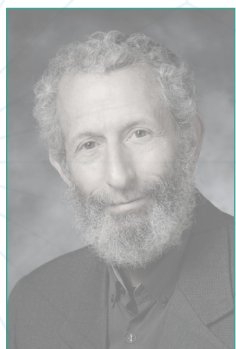


PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM

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Community Scholar-in-Residence DR. REUVEN FIRESTONE



Now more than ever, it is important to learn about Islam, build bridges, and cultivate understanding. The North Peninsula Jewish community welcomes [Professor Reuven Firestone](#), a renowned expert on Islam, its beliefs, principles, and history.

Professor Firestone is Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, and is co-director of the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement, a joint program of the Hebrew Union College, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation and the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California. He is the acclaimed author of *JIHAD: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* among many other books.

Professor Firestone will be teaching across the area, with two events at PTS.
(For a schedule of other area events, visit pjcc.org/scholar/)

ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

☐ Wednesday, January 25
🕒 7–9 PM

What are the origins and history of these two hateful movements and what is the relationship between the two?

IF THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MONOTHEISMS?

☐ Friday, January 27
🕒 7:15 PM (after services)

Explore how the major monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — each developed, examining the relationship between them historically and today.

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
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