



# Course Catalog

*Fall 5777: September 2016-January 2017*



## Weekly Class Schedule

Hour 1 – 6:40-7:30	
Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Semester Class, Part 1	Matt Lowe & TBD, with Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
Pop Culture Breakdown: Is Hollywood Actually Jewish?	Emilia Diamant
Jewish Contemporary Art	Natalya Bernstein
Earth, Air, Fire, Torah: Jewish Environmental Justice	Laura Bellows
TIKKUN: To Take on the World!	R' Matt Soffer & Tali Puterman
Connecting Generations: Volunteering with Hebrew Senior Life, Part 1	David Winship
Hour 2 - 7:40-8:30	
Our Whole Lives – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Semester Class, Part 2	Matt Lowe & TBD, with Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
Covenant: The Fall Confirmation Class	The Temple Israel Clergy
The Boston-Haifa Connection	Rabbi Suzie Jacobson & Rav Claudia Kreiman
What's in a Prayer?	Laura Bellows
Connecting Generations: Volunteering with Hebrew Senior Life, Part 2	David Winship
Torah Yoga: Moving into Jewish Spiritual Practice	Kelly Banker

## Course Identifiers



**Text** – While Jewish texts will appear in every Tent class, work with text-based sources will be a particularly important part of this class.



**Art** – Art projects are a big part of this class!



**Movement** – Learning through dance, yoga, or other forms of movement is a key component of this class. Wear comfortable clothing!



**Social Justice** – A major focus of this class will be learning about ways to pursue social justice, and/or about topics of societal concern.



**Philosophy** – The endeavor of Jewish Thought is at the center of this class.



**Israel** – The State of Israel is a major theme for this class.



**Interaction** – You'll hear from your classmates in every Tent class, but peer-to-peer interaction will be a purposeful part of your learning in this class.



**Spirituality** – Ideas about how we connect with one another, with Judaism, and with Jewish practice, including God, prayer, Jewish ritual, and more are a big part of this class.

## Course Descriptions – Fall 5777: September 2016-January 2017

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### **Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Semester, Double Block**

**Matthew Lowe and TBD, with Rabbi Suzie Jacobson**



Welcome to The Tent! Our whole community is thrilled to have you join us this fall. Your first year in The Tent will kick off with a great experience for the 8th Grade as a whole: a class called Our Whole Lives (a.k.a. OWL). The 8th Grade will stay together for this class in the fall, and then you will each sign up for elective classes in advance of our winter semester.

Course Description: Being a human being is really difficult. Behaving ethically and making healthy choices is even harder. In this discussion-based course, we will create a safe environment where we can explore our identities, beliefs, and relationships. Topics include communication, boundaries and consent, ethics of violence, relationships and flirting, emotional stress, gender identity, sexual identification, stereotyping, and decision making. The goal of OWL is to develop a class-community in which students can feel free to speak their minds, be themselves, and form bonds with classmates while being given the space to think about important, relevant values. *This past year, Rabbi Jacobson won the Association of Reform Jewish Educators' Yad b'Yad Award for Innovative Approaches to Youth/Teen Mental Health for her work creating and leading OWL.*

### **Jewish Contemporary Art**

**Natalya Bernstein**



Contemporary art is the art of today – art that provides an opportunity to reflect on society, on the issues relevant to ourselves, and on the world around us. Trash sculptures, time-restricted portrait painting, and free-choice mixed media are some of the techniques that we will use to explore our identity as Jewish contemporaries. We will walk away with a new understanding of what can be used to make art, how art can help us state that our opinions and ideas matter, and how to use art as a means to grow our understanding of each other. The course concludes with a gallery show that the students will design, install and host. Leave all of your ideas of “art class” behind, this is unlike any art class you have taken before!

### **Torah Yoga: Moving into Jewish Spiritual Practice**

**Kelly Banker**



Are you looking for a new and exciting way to connect to prayer? Do you love to move, stretch and connect with your body? Are you fascinated by Jewish meditative and mystical teachings? If so, this class is for you! Together we will explore how to bring our full selves with us when we pray. Through folding, twisting, stretching and sometimes even standing on our heads, we will work on moving Jewish wisdom into our hearts, souls and bodies. Weaving together yoga, breath work, Torah stories, the Jewish calendar, meditation, and mystical teachings, we will create an embodied Jewish spiritual practice that is vibrant, meaningful, and relevant for each of us.

## Earth, Air, Fire, Torah: Jewish Environmental Justice

Laura Bellows



Our people have wandered and settled, farmed and mikveh'd across the globe, connecting Judaism with the natural world throughout the generations. What does Judaism have to say about our relationship with the earth? What role do we have, as American Jews, to care for our planet – and its people - today? Roll up your (metaphoric) sleeves and dive into this discussion-based class to explore a Jewish take on the major environmental issues of our time – and what we can do about them.

## The Fall Confirmation Class

The Temple Israel Clergy



You'll be the first group to experience a brand new format for Monday evening Confirmation classes. You'll have wonderful learning time with Rabbis Zecher, Soffer, and Jacobson, exploring questions of great meaning to you. Woven throughout your time with the rabbis, you'll have the wonderful opportunity to work with Cantor Einhorn on creating your own Confirmation Service.

## TIKKUN: To Take on the World! – Winner of a RAC 2015 Fain Social Action Award

Rabbi Matt Soffer and Tali Puterman



This class is more than a course of learning – it's a course of action. We will learn how to powerfully pursue social justice in our society, acquiring the tools and the know-how to repair civic brokenness; we will discover how this has everything to do with Judaism; most importantly, we will ACT to make things better when, on the TIKKUN Lobby Day, we "pray with our feet" and go to the State House on Monday, January 30, 2017, to make our voices heard!

***Please note: attendance to our TIKKUN Lobby Day Event on Beacon Hill (1/30/17) is an expectation of the class, and will require missing a day of school.*** We will be happy to communicate with your school!

## The Boston-Haifa Connection

Rabbi Suzie Jacobson and Rav Claudia Kreiman



The Tent's Boston-Haifa Connection (BHC) is much more than a class – it's a fully-year experience based on partnership with a sibling class of teens at Kiryat Haim High School in Haifa. We will share learning and build relationships with these Israeli peers, travel to Israeli together to meet them and tour the country, and host them here at home. In class, the BHC will be an exceptional chance for deep learning about the land, state, and modern history of Israel. It will be a safe space in which you can openly address the most important issues facing the vital relationship of the world's two largest Jewish communities with teachers and peers you know and trust. Enrollment in the BHC requires application; spots are being offered first to rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Connecting Generations: Volunteering with Hebrew Senior Life

David Winship



Have you been waiting for a class that connects your teen community, your Jewish learning, and an opportunity for consistent volunteer service? It's here. If wisdom is the combination of critical thinking, compassionate relationship, and the drive to change the world, then this is a course that will start you on your way down the path to wisdom. Come join us as we study a rich tradition of Jewish texts, meet and work with the Residents of Hebrew Senior Life (HSL), and build a learning and social community together. We will spend alternating weeks volunteering at HSL (1550 Beacon St, Brookline) and meeting as a class in The Tent, where together we'll learn and we'll envision and design the programs we will offer for the HSL Residents. If you're dedicated to learning the skills needed to make positive change in the world, and you want to apply those skills right now, in your own community, this class is for you. I hope you will join us.

This class is a new partnership of The Tent, Center Communities of Brookline at 1550 Beacon St (an HSL residence), and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston's TELEM program. On volunteer days, the class will have Tent dinner at Temple Israel, and then travel with David on the Green Line to 1550 Beacon St (backup transport plan will be a ride service). To participate in this class, students will need parent travel permission.

## What's in a Prayer?

Laura Bellows



Rabbi Eliezer once said (in Mishna Brachot, about two thousand years ago), "a person who makes one's prayers fixed, that person's prayers are not sincere." What is the purpose of prayer and what does it mean to pray sincerely? To Whom / What are we praying? In this hands-on class, we will look to the *siddur's* classic prayers, poetry, and pleadings to write, paint, discuss, and design our own radical, creative, and personal *siddurim*.

## Pop Culture Breakdown: Is Hollywood Actually Jewish?

Emilia Diamant



Pop culture is inescapable--from the Kardashians to Beyoncé to the infiltration of social media into every waking moment. But is there anything to learn about Judaism in pop culture? The stereotype of Jews in Hollywood is an old and tired one, but can we reflect on Jewish values in the pop culture we consume? Are there any good Jewish pop culture phenomena? Come to this class to listen, watch, read, and learn about how we Jews have contributed to pop culture, and how pop culture has shaped us.

## The Tent 5777 Staff

(alphabetical order)

<b>Kelly Banker</b>	
	<p>Kelly recently earned her BA in Religion and Gender Studies from Carleton College. Since then, she has been in Boston working as a resident organizer at Moishe Kavod House, as an intern at Mayyim Hayyim, and as a Jewish educator at Temple Beth Zion and at Ohabei Shalom. Kelly is a passionate advocate for survivors of sexual violence, and is also trained as a birth doula, a comprehensive sex educator, and as a certified yoga teacher. She is forever in love with dance, running in the woods, poetry and the moon.</p>
<b>Laura Bellows</b>	
	<p>Laura Bellows is a Virginia native, raised with a mix of Conservative practice, Reform melodies, spirited independent <i>Havurah</i> community, and a strong connection to the natural world. She began teaching Jewish food and environmental education and working on various social and economic justice campaigns while completing her B.A. at Oberlin College. In 2005, Laura joined the staff of the Teva Learning Alliance, where she worked with Jewish communities across the U.S. to go green and engage in awesome and meaningful Jewish learning. Laura recently returned from a year of study in Jerusalem and training as a <i>soferet</i> (scribe). She is starting her 4th year of Rabbinical School at Hebrew College and is thrilled to be back in snowy Boston, teaching at The Tent, and reunited with her bicycle and pottery studio.</p>
<b>Roberta Bergstein, TI Education Program Manager</b>	
	<p>Roberta is no stranger to the TI Teen Education community - this will be her third year as the RYFTI advisor. Did you know she plays tennis? Or that she went to Brandeis? Roberta eagerly awaits the special RYFTI event where she gets to challenge any and all RYFTI members to a tennis match. Roberta is very excited to continue her work with RYFTI as she remains in a full-time position at Temple Israel as the Education Program Manager. If you have questions about RYFTI, Jewish Camping, or any programs that take place outside the classroom - contact Roberta!</p>
<b>Natalya Bernstein</b>	
	<p>Natalya Bernstein graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, majoring in Art Education. Combining her love for contemporary art and Jewish education, she has had the privilege to design art curriculum the year not only for The Tent, but for TI's Religious School, where Natalya can be found teaching first grade and art electives. She loves combining material from different sources in her artworks and encourages her students to do the same, focusing on the "making" more than the "finished piece." Outside of teaching, Natalya manages The Frame Gallery in Brookline and works passionately in her studio.</p>
<b>Emilia Diamant</b>	
	<p>Emilia Diamant, MSW, is the Executive Director of the Jeremiah-Endicott Program in Boston. Jeremiah works with low income single moms and their children to help transition families from poverty to prosperity, two generations at a time. She has taught in Boston, New York, Costa Rica, North Carolina, Ukraine and Italy, in many languages and settings. Emilia's training as a Social Worker enables her to employ both micro (therapeutic) and macro (systemic) techniques in her work as an educator. She loves bringing together teens from different cultures, ethnicities, religions, and communities together to learn and grow as informed citizens. Emilia was a JOIN fellow in 2012-2013. She lives in Boston with her boyfriend Nathan and their two dogs, and can most likely be found thinking or talking about the Red Sox.</p>



**Cantor Roy Einhorn, Temple Israel**



Cantor Roy B. Einhorn recently celebrated his 33<sup>rd</sup> year at Temple Israel. He came to TI after graduating from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion’s School of Sacred Music in 1983. Cantor Einhorn coordinates TI’s B’nei Mitzvah Program, conducts the youth and adult choirs, and teaches in the Preschool and Religious School, as well as here in The Tent. He works closely with two wonderful TI community initiatives: TI Cares, which ensures that support and celebration are offered to every TI member, and the TI Green Team, which works to mobilize the congregation to protect our local and global ecosystems. Cantor Einhorn loves Jewish music from around the world and he loves to travel, especially to visit his first grandchild, who was born this past spring.

**Mike Fishbein, TI Assistant Director of Education – Engagement; Tent Director**



Mike has been part of the TI staff since 2009. He has worked in several different roles, including Director of Teen Education for the past four years, and is excited to begin working with students and their families from pre-K through high school alumni as Assistant Director of Education – Engagement. Before his work at TI, Mike spent five years as a high school Biology teacher and two years as the manager of a Beacon Hill restaurant. Mike holds a degree in Biology from Drew University. He is a graduate of Me’ah and completed GBIO’s regional organizer training with Metro IAF. Mike is originally from New Jersey (exit 7A). A long time ago, he had a 16-year career as a competitive swimmer; he also made an attempt at pole vaulting and a slightly better attempt at water polo. He loves to cook (and to eat!), read, and travel, and he loves Jamaica Plain, where he lives with his wife, Rebecca, and twin five-year-old sons, Benjamin and Ezra.

**Brigid Goggin, TI Assistant Director of Education – Operations**



Brigid Goggin has been at Temple Israel since 2014, and works as the Assistant Director of Education-Operations. Brigid is originally from Oklahoma and went to college in Arkansas, where she studied Anthropology with a focus on Jewish identity in the South. She then moved to Boston to serve in AmeriCorps for two years, and fell in love with New England and never left. She has a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and loves learning and talking about storytelling, rituals, modern European history, and religious identity in America. Or if that’s too boring, she also loves talking about music, movies, Harry Potter, and cats.

**Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, TI Director of Education**



Rabbi Suzie Jacobson is over the moon to be the Education Director at Temple Israel. Before receiving rabbinic ordination and an MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew College, she served in numerous roles at TI including: Rabbinic Intern, Community Organizer, Curriculum Writer, and educator in the Religious School and teen program. She has also served as education director at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline, curriculum director at BBYO’s teen summer program “Kallah,” and curriculum consultant and trainer for Keshet, a national organization working for full inclusion of LGBT Jews in Jewish life. Rabbi Jacobson is passionate about ensuring that our community is inclusive and just, that our educational programs allow students to bring their whole selves, and that our prayer is meaningful, authentic and full of immense joy.

**Rabbi Claudia Kreiman (Rav Claudia), Temple Beth Zion**



Rabbi Claudia Kreiman has been TBZ’s associate Rabbi since 2007. She grew up in Santiago, Chile. Her father was a Rabbi who served many different communities in Chile and elsewhere. At age 18 she moved with her family to Argentina. In 1996, she moved to Israel and entered the Rabbinical School of the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, the Israeli Conservative Seminary, where she was ordained in 2002. After ordination, Rav Claudia became the Rabbi for NOAM, the Masorti-Conservative Youth Movement in Israel. Rav Claudia was a Rikma Fellow, an educational organization that seeks to breathe new fire into Jewish life in Israel by building original communities and strengthening existing ones through training and support of leadership. She was also a Rabbinic Fellow of B’nei Jeshurun, New York. In addition, she helped to build Hokhmat Halev, a spiritual community for secular Israelis in Ramat Hasharon, Israel.



**Matthew Lowe**



Matthew Lowe is a substance abuse clinician at Pine Street Inn. He came to Boston in 2007 for Divinity School, and has been teaching Jewish philosophy and theology to Jewish teens ever since. Matthew is especially interested in promoting personal reflection on experiences of meaning, relationships, and sometimes God. Outside of school and work, he enjoys reading, writing, hula-hooping, improvisational rock music, cartoons, and walking around Boston.

**Tali Puterman, TI Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer**



Tali Puterman has been at Temple Israel since 2014 as a teacher in the Religious School program. This year, she has taken on a new full-time role as TI's Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer, and she is excited to continue in the Religious School as the lead 5th grade teacher. Tali recently graduated with her Master's in Educational Studies from Tufts University where she focused her studies on Supreme Court higher education affirmative action cases through a Critical Race Theory lens. She also completed JOIN for Justice's course in community organizing. A recent recipient of U.S. citizenship, Tali originates from Cape Town, South Africa and will happily accompany anyone on their travels there as tour guide. Tali grew up playing competitive chess and has defeated every American she's played. Are you the one to break the streak? Meanwhile, she'll settle for a good game of Settlers (get it?) and also loves teaching 4- and 5-year-old children how to play.

**Rabbi Matt Soffer, Temple Israel of Boston**



Rabbi Matthew V. Soffer was ordained as a graduate of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2010. Rabbi Soffer has had extensive experience in youth work, both within the synagogue and as a long-time staff member of the URJ Camp Joseph and Betty Harlam and NFTY's Kutz Camp. Prior to beginning rabbinical school, he served as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant Fellow at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C., and worked as the advisor to the North American Board of NFTY. The topic of his Rabbinic Thesis, "Listening for Laughter: Sensing Humor in the Babylonian Talmud," is a wonderful window on his character and style.

**David Winship**



David Winship grew up at Temple Israel and even attended the Tent when it was called Monday Night School not so many years ago! He graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Philosophy with a focus in Ethics and now is working towards a rabbinical degree from Hebrew College in Newton. David loves spending time outside, often paddling down the Charles in his canoe with a fishing line trailing behind him. David's love of Judaism was largely inspired by our rich tradition of stories and has led him to becoming a *maggid*, a Jewish storyteller. David is excited to share his love of Judaism, ethics, and stories with our community.

**Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Temple Israel of Boston Senior Rabbi**



Rabbi Elaine S. Zecher became Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel of Boston on July 1, 2016. She has served the congregation since 1990 and was the first female rabbi in the history of Temple Israel. Rabbi Zecher loves Judaism and being Jewish. Judaism to her is a rich treasure trove of resources and opportunities to live life joyously and positively. As a teen, she joined the youth group of her synagogue in Monroeville, Pennsylvania and got involved on the regional and national level of NFTY. She attended the URJ's Kutz Camp for eight summers as a camper and then as a counselor; she eventually became the head counselor and a faculty member. It was through her mentors at Kutz that she decided to become a rabbi. Rabbi Zecher has worked with members of the TI community to bring many innovations to experiences of prayer, learning, and social justice. She chaired a committee that helped edit the prayer books we use for Shabbat and the High Holidays. She presently serves on Boston Mayor's Interfaith Task Force. She really enjoys bringing the excitement of Judaism to high school students and looks forward to teaching her class this year.