TEMPLE ISRAEL LIFELONG LEARNING INITIATIVE

TILLI

Brochure & Registration Form

Fall 2017

Registration Deadline: September 14th

LIVING JUDAISM THROUGH DISCOVERY, DYNAMIC SPIRITUALITY, AND RIGHTEOUS IMPACT.
## TILLI FALL 2017 SEMESTER SCHEDULE

**THURSDAYS: October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30**

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<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Morning Study Groups</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</td>
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### MORNING STUDY GROUPS

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- **Hamilton: A Revolutionary Musical** with Judy Berkowitz
- **Lessons on Life’s Final Journey** with Rabbi Herman Blumberg
- **Justice and the Jewish Tradition** with Rabbi Serena Fujita
- **Africa Then, Africa Now** with Brooks Goddard
- **Black Voices, Black Reality** with Helen Kolsky

### AFTERNOON STUDY GROUPS

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

- **Issues in International Politics** with Ted Greenwood
- **The Gene** with Barbara Smith Koff
- **Meditation** with Susan Sachs
- **Poetry of the Hebrew Bible** with Zvi A. Sesling
- **The Reconstruction Period (1865 - 1877) and Its Legacy** with Joanne Tuck
- **The Conversation on Aging** with Rhoda Wald *(3 dates at 3:30 p.m.)*
- **Wagner** with Stephen Weiner

Registration Deadline September 14th

If you have any questions regarding TILLI, please contact Sue Misselbeck at susanm@tisrael.org, 617-566-3960, ext 117.

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**Core Committee**

Co-Chairs: Ruth Klepper, Marlene Yesley
Archivist: Rhoda Wald
Curriculum: Judith Herman
Lunch and Learn: Ted Greenwood
Membership: Larry Koff

Summer Session: Saralynn Busch
Events: Sylvia Green
Winter Session & Salons:
Paula Folkman, Naomi Gordon, Peggy Morrison

Rabbinic Liaison: Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
TILLI Coordinator: Susan Misselbeck

Photo credits: Emma Sandler, Michael Sandman
TILLI Study Groups

Lessons on Life’s Final Journey
with Rabbi Herman Blumberg (Hermanblumberg@gmail.com)
Thursday Mornings, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Every creative genre from the Torah to the modern film explores illness, loss, and the end of life. In this study group we will discuss themes such as how to tend to one who is dying, how to respond to a loved one whose quality of life has deteriorated, how to face our mortality without becoming morbid, and what happens when we look back on our life to contemplate our legacy. A selection from the arts will frame each weekly discussion, including music and film. Preparation time: less than 2 hours.

Reading
Leo Tolstoy: The Death of Ivan Ilych (available from $3.99 at Amazon and at libraries.) John Updike: My Father’s Tears and Other Stories (available from $1.35 at Amazon and at libraries). Other materials will be provided by the SGL. Copying at cost.

Justice and the Jewish Tradition
with Rabbi Serena Fujita (sfujita@bucknell.edu)
Thursday mornings, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Justice, justice shall you pursue (Deuteronomy 16:20). How do we, as Jews, understand justice? What guidance are we given in the texts of our tradition? This course will look at issues of social justice with an emphasis on how they are viewed in the Jewish tradition. The topics might include economic justice, criminal justice, racial justice and religious liberty, i.e., the weakening separation of church and state. In addition to Jewish texts, we will consider relevant current articles. Preparation time: 1 ½ hours.

Reading
The SGL will provide course materials. Copying at cost.

“The course exceeded all my expectations. I saw so many more aspects of the stories, read them so much more carefully.”
— TILLI Participant

“I told the study group leader she changed my life.”
— TILLI Participant

Registration Deadline: September 14th
TILLI Study Groups

Africa Then, Africa Now
with Brooks Goddard (goddard@rcn.com)
Thursday mornings, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

We will look at this large and diverse continent through aspects of its history, geography, politics, and literature. Sessions will be group discussions with opportunities for individual participants’ presentations. Preparation time: 1 ½ hours

“The instructor valued all the contributions from all the class members.”
— TILLI Participant

Reading

Black Voices, Black Reality
with Helen Kolsky (hkolsky@yahoo.com)
Thursday mornings, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Renee Graham, in an opinion piece in the Boston Globe, wrote: “The question isn’t whether this city is racist, but what its citizens plan to do beyond occasionally talking about it.” A solid first step, she said, will be for people to be outraged by the racism that clings to us like a second skin. In this study group, we will read literature of great power—fiction, nonfiction, poetry—which will bring us into the emotional, social, and political heart of black reality. It will connect us to recent efforts across the country to go “beyond occasionally talking about it” including our own efforts, here at Temple Israel. Reading will include works by James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison, TaNehisi Coates and Claudia Rankine. Preparation time: 2 hours.

Reading
The SGL will supply most course materials. Participants may be asked to purchase additional books. Copying at cost.
Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical about the revolutionary Alexander Hamilton is itself revolutionary. To appreciate both an original Founding Father and an original interpretation of history, we will view scenes from the musical, read and listen to the score, and see taped interviews in which Miranda presents his vision. Preparation time: about 30 minutes of listening and 30 minutes of reading. Participants will need to access the sound track of Hamilton, through the library, YouTube, or a purchased CD.

Reading
The SGL will provide additional course materials. Copying at cost.

Issues in International Politics
with Ted Greenwood (tedgreenwood@msn.com)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Drawing on articles from one of America’s most influential foreign policy magazines, Foreign Affairs, we will discuss issues in international politics. Topics may include the Middle East, military technology, alliance politics, China and East Asia, and international economics. Some topics will be selected by the SGL; others will be chosen according to the particular interests of the group members. No background is necessary, and all study group members will be encouraged to join the discussion. Preparation time: about 2 hours.

Reading
Articles from Foreign Affairs will be provided by the SGL. Copying at cost.
The Gene

with Barbara Smith Koff (bdsmith@bu.edu)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Our genes are the blueprint for our lives. How do they work? How are they affected by the environment? We will look at the history of scientific discoveries culminating in our ability to understand and manipulate human genes. But what moral and legal issues does this now raise for us? These are the questions we will consider, with videos and other materials to supplement the reading. No scientific background is expected or necessary. Preparation time: 1 ½-2 hours. Some classes will run an additional 30 minutes to allow time for further discussion.

Reading

Meditation

with Susan Sachs (sachs.sm@gmail.com)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This class will introduce participants to mindfulness and movement fundamentals, and how to integrate these healthy living practices into daily life. Participants will learn specific mindfulness exercises and simple movements to augment their mindfulness practice. (Note: we will be using chairs and standing for all exercises, with modifications as needed.)

Reading
There is no reading assigned for this class, but students are encouraged to practice at home the techniques learned in class.

“People who were skeptical at first found themselves drawn into the course.”
— TILLI Participant
TILLI Study Groups

Poetry of the Hebrew Bible
with Zvi A. Sesling (zviasesling@gmail.com)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This course is a survey of the poetry of the Hebrew Bible. We will study the poetic verse found in the five books Moses, Psalms, Prophets, Book of Job, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and others. From discussions and lectures, we will gain a deeper understanding of the poetry and its historical context. Preparation time: 1 ½ hours.

Reading
The SGL will provide course materials. Copying at cost.

The Reconstruction Period (1865-1877) and Its Legacy
with Joanne Tuck (jwtuck1@verizon.net)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The period of Reconstruction following the Civil War was fraught with immense challenges. Slavery had been abolished, and the South had to rebuild its economy and social structure. The study of the Reconstruction reveals the fragility of our democracy. We shall explore the struggles and polarized visions of the period and their lingering effects on our society today. In class we shall have discussion, watch videos, and analyze documents. Study group members will need to be able to open and read emails, PDF documents, and YouTube videos. Preparation time: 2 hours.

Reading

The Conversation on Aging
with Rhoadawald (rhoadawald@gmail.com)
Thursday afternoons, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
THREE SESSIONS, October 26, November 2, November 9

The Conversation on Aging will be an open-ended dialogue about this stage of life: what do we want to know, what is intriguing to us, and how can TILLI help. This is a three-session study group. Members can attend one, two or all of the sessions. Participants will decide the focus.
TILLI Study Groups

Wagner

with Stephen Weiner (sweiner@mintz.com)
Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This study group focuses on the most controversial, complex, and possibly misunderstood opera composer ever: Richard Wagner. After a brief history of opera, we will discover how Wagner revolutionized the art form. We will look at his philosophical antecedents; his anti-Semitism and its relationship to his art; and how subsequent generations have used his work artistically and politically. Most of the sessions will be discussions, with one session or more dedicated to listening and talking about Tristan und Isolde. Preparation time: 1 ½ hours.

Reading: The SGL will provide course materials and opera libretto. Copying at cost.

“The best thing was the camaraderie.”
— TILLI Participant

Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday Afternoons, 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.
Plan to stay for lunch! Our speakers are distinguished members of the congregation and the community. Bring your lunch. We’ll provide beverages, snacks and dessert.

And watch your email. A few weeks ahead of time, we’ll send you an announcement about each program.

Mission Statement

TILLI is Temple Israel Lifelong Learning Initiative

Now in its tenth year, TILLI is a community of intellectually curious adults who are eager to share their knowledge and learn from each other. TILLI’s mission is to provide opportunities for members to participate in peer-led study groups covering a broad range of topics from a Jewish perspective, to enjoy cultural events together, and to develop community and social relationships.
Biographical Information

Judy Berkowitz, *Hamilton: A Revolutionary Musical*, has an M.A. from Lesley University’s Integrated Arts Program and a Ph.D. in education. She has collaborated with a variety of Boston arts institutions to create programs integrating the arts and academic content.

Rabbi Herman Blumberg, *Lessons On Life’s Final Journey*, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Hebrew Union College, is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland. He recently retired as Rabbinic Director of Hospice Care at Hebrew Senior Life.

Rabbi Serena Fujita, *Justice and the Jewish Tradition*, ordained at Hebrew Union College, taught in the Social Justice College at Bucknell University where she was a chaplain. She is involved in the Racial Justice initiative at Temple Israel.

Ted Greenwood, *Issues in International Politics*, taught and wrote about national security and energy policy at MIT and Columbia. He was also a Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Brooks Goddard, *Africa Then, Africa Now*, taught in Kenya in the 60’s and has returned to the continent 7 times. He has worked with the B.U. Africa Outreach Center Primary Source and Teachers As Scholars. He taught English at Wellesley High School.

Helen Kolsky, *Black Voices, Black Reality*, holds a B.A. in English and American Literature from Brandeis and an M.A. from the New School. She has taught 8 study groups at TILLI.
Barbara Smith Koff, *The Gene*, a Professor Emerita of Biochemistry at B.U. School of Medicine, taught molecular biology. She led research on gene regulation and in different areas of molecular and cell biology.

Susan Sachs, *Meditation*, has been teaching Mindfulness and Movement at Temple Israel for the past two years and has a background in dance, psychotherapy, and yoga.

Zvi A. Sesling, *Poetry of the Hebrew Bible*, is Poet Laureate of Brookline. He has published poems in online and print journals, written two books of poetry and two chapbooks. He is the editor of *Muddy River Poetry Review*.

Joanne Tuck, *The Reconstruction Period (1865-1877) and Its Legacy*, has degrees from B.U. in History and Social Education and has studied the Holocaust and social movements extensively. She introduced a unit of Facing History and Ourselves at Wentworth Institute, where she taught for many years, and has also led study groups on the Reconstruction period.

Rhoada Wald, *The Conversation on Aging*, Ed.D., Columbia, was a faculty member and administrator at Empire State College, SUNY. She has led study groups at Brandeis, the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, and TILLI.

Stephen Weiner, *Wagner*, is a lawyer whose principal passion, aside from law, is opera. He attends the Met regularly, chairs the board of a New York-based company that fosters creation of new operas, and served on the board of Opera Boston.
TILLI Fall 2017 Registration Form

Please complete this form and return it with payment by September 14th.
REGISTER EARLY. MANY CLASSES HAVE LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________ City/Zip ______________
Home Phone _______________________ Cell Phone _______________________
Email ____________________________

Morning Study Groups (begin at 11:00 a.m.) Please indicate first and second choice.

1st choice                   2nd choice
Hamilton: A Revolutionary Musical with Judy Berkowitz
Lessons on Life’s Final Journey with Rabbi Herman Blumberg
Justice and the Jewish Tradition with Rabbi Serena Fujita
Africa Then, Africa Now with Brooks Goddard
Black Voices, Black Reality with Helen Kolsky

Lunch & Learn Program (12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.)
Bring your lunch. Beverages, snacks and dessert will be provided.
☐ Yes, I plan to join TILLI participants for weekly Lunch & Learn.

Afternoon Study Groups (begin at 2:00 p.m.) Please indicate first and second choice.

1st choice                   2nd choice
Issues in International Politics with Ted Greenwood
The Gene with Barbara Smith Koff
Meditation with Susan Sachs
Poetry of the Hebrew Bible with Zvi A. Sesling
The Reconstruction Period (1865-1877) and Its Legacy with Joanne Tuck
The Conversation on Aging with Rhoda Wald (3 dates at 3:30 p.m.)
Wagner with Stephen Weiner

Cost: $50.00 (TI and synagogue members) or $100.00 (general community)
TILLI welcomes members of other synagogues who wish to study with us. They may join at the Temple Israel members’ fee of $50. Community members are also welcome at the fee of $100.
The Fall semester includes study group fees and parking. There will be additional costs for books, copying, and special programs. Please note: No Parking on Nessel Way.

Make checks payable to Temple Israel and mail with this completed form to:
TILLI-Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

Registration deadline September 14th.
If you have any questions regarding TILLI, please contact Sue Misselbeck at 617-566-3960 ext. 117 or susanm@tisrael.org.

You may also register online at www.tisrael.org/tilli-semester-registration