



The Tent

A Jewish learning community for
Greater Boston teens
at Temple Israel of Boston

Course Catalog

Spring 5778: February-May 2018



5778 Calendar*

**Subject to change – check for updates during the year*

September 2017

9/4 – Labor Day
9/11 – First Night of The Tent 5778/Fall Kickoff
“Taste-Of” Lessons
9/18 – Tent Fall 1
9/25 – Tent Fall 2

October 2017

10/2 – Tent Fall 3
10/9 – Indigenous People’s Day, No Tent
10/16 – Tent Fall 4
10/23 – Tent Fall 5
10/30 – Tent Fall 6

November 2017

11/6 – Tent Fall 7
11/13 – Tent Fall 8
11/20 – The Tent Attends Israeli Stage (Private School Vacation)
11/27 – Tent Fall 9

December 2017

12/4 – Tent Fall 10
12/11 – Tent Fall 11
12/18 – Tent Fall 12 (Hanukkah 7th Candle)
12/25 – Winter Break, No Tent

January 2018

1/2 – Winter Break, No Tent
1/7 – TIKKUN Prep Day
1/8 – Tent Seminar Night – 12th Grade “Jewish Life on Campus” Seminar and more
1/15 – MLK Day, No Tent
1/22 – Tent All-School Program
1/29 – Tent Spring Kickoff “Taste-of” Lessons

February 2018

2/2 – 8th Grade NYC Trip
2/5 – Tent Spring 1
2/12 – Tent Spring 2
2/19 – President’s Day, No Tent
2/26 – Tent Spring 3

March 2018

3/5 – Tent Spring 4
3/12 – Tent Spring 5
3/19 – Tent Spring 6
3/26 – Tent Spring 7

April 2018

4/2 – Tent Spring 8 (3rd Day of Pesach)
4/9 – Tent Special Program TBA
4/16 – Patriots’ Day, No Tent
4/23 – The Tent Spring 9
4/30 – The Tent Spring 10; The Tent Open House

May 2018

5/7 – Tent Spring 11
5/14 – Tent Spring 12, End of Semester
5/21 – Last Night of The Tent 5778
5/28 – Memorial Day



Weekly Class Schedule

Hour 1 – 6:40-7:30	
Jewish Contemporary Art	Natalya Bernstein
Harry Potter and the Holocaust	Brigid Goggin
TentFlix	Tali Puterman
Rabbinic Debate Club	EmFish (Emily Fishman)
Comparative Religions	Rabbi David Winship
Hour 2 - 7:40-8:30	
The Torah of Social Justice	Tyler Dratch
Jewish Monsters	Elana Weiner
Introduction to Sephardi History and Culture	Rabbi Shahar Colt
Spiritual Practice Lab!	Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
From Babs to Broad City, Bra Burning to BuzzFeed: Intersections of Judaism, Feminism, and Pop Culture	Emilia Diamant

Also in Hour 1 for TI Confirmation Students: “Covenant: The Spring Confirmation Class,” with the TI Clergy

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 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.



Media – Clips from movies, songs, and shows will be featured as important sources in this class.

Course Descriptions – Spring 5778: February-May 2018

(alphabetical order by title)

Comparative Religions

Rabbi David Winship



Love your neighbor as yourself is an important Jewish ideal. In our globalized world, the definition of who one's neighbor is has been ever widening. Come join us in exploring the faiths and traditions of our neighbors. We will look into their ancient and canonical texts, explore their history and traditions of commentary, as well as meet with our local religious neighbors. We will not become experts, but we will open the door for you and help you start new conversations with your neighbors of all faiths.

From Babs to Broad City, Bra Burning to BuzzFeed: Intersections of Judaism, Feminism, and Pop Culture

Emilia Diamant



Judaism. Feminism. Pop Culture. Things that seem to be mismatched, actually have a lot of places they intersect. We'll dive into the strong Jewish women who have been impacting and creating TV, movies, and music for decades. We'll talk about ways that these seemingly disparate concepts come together, compete, and make each other more interesting. Come ready to learn about the history and dive into the "now".

Harry Potter and the Holocaust

Brigid Goggin



Do you love Harry Potter? Are you interested in learning more about the history of the Holocaust and grappling with big questions about survival, the nature of evil, and corruption? In this class, we will watch clips from the movies and read parts of our favorite Harry Potter books, and see what lessons we can learn from the text that help answer questions about the Holocaust. A general knowledge about Harry Potter is helpful for this class, but you don't have to be an expert!

Introduction to Sephardi History and Culture

Rabbi Shahar Colt



Talking about Judaism in relation to ethnicity can be complicated, especially considering that Jews have lived all over the world and their lives have been shaped by diverse cultures. In this class we will explore the history of Sephardi Jews – Jewish communities that trace their roots to medieval Spain – who spread out far and wide, building communities in the Netherlands, the Ottoman Empire, and the Americas. How did people in all these different contexts understand their Judaism? What did they have in common? And what can we learn about Judaism's diversity from exploring their experiences?

Jewish Contemporary Art

Natalya Bernstein



Contemporary art is the art of today – art that provides an opportunity to reflect on society, the issues relevant to ourselves, and the world around us. We will study the studio practices of Jewish contemporary artists today, learning how they create their work, from where it originated and what it is about. We will begin to create individual and group artworks based on our research, class discussions, and studio production, discussing our work with our artist community. *Exhibition to follow course completion.*

Jewish Monsters

Elana Weiner



What do the things we fear tell us about ourselves and the world? To answer this question, we'll investigate the monsters and other creatures of Jewish myth: the giant sea and land creatures Leviathan and Behemoth, the demon Lilith, the dybbuk, and the Golem. We will use Talmudic passages, Midrash, TaNaKH, and art to examine these creatures psychologically and philosophically. The class will involve reading, discussion, art, and creative writing.

Rabbinic Debate Club

EmFish (Emily Fishman)



The Talmud is the central text of rabbinic Judaism. Traditionally the main focus of a person's Jewish education, it has become relegated to only the most knowledgeable due to its complexity and the obscurity of most of its topics. The rhythm of the text is not comparable to anything in the secular canon. After an introduction to the structure and history of the text, we will explore the 2nd chapter of Makkot, which concerns itself with liability for manslaughter. Along the way we will encounter parent-child relationships, trespassing, slavery, tool maintenance, and the lilt of the tight back-and-forth of the Babylonian Talmud.

Spiritual Practice Lab!

Rabbi Suzie Jacobson



Prayer is not a spectator sport! But it's hard to figure out how to make prayer meaningful. Join us as we explore prayer through different modalities: poetry, meditation, art, text study (ie actually understanding what we are saying), mussar and more!

TentFlix

Tali Puterman



For generations, Jews have studied the Torah and created *midrashim* (interpretative writings) - discovering new meanings within the text that respond to a changing world. What can today's Netflix generation bring to the study of Torah? How can "Orange is the New Black" inform an LGBTQ narrative in Lech Lecha? How can "Stranger Things" impact the way we think about mental health in Toldot? This course will consider social justice themes from popular Netflix shows as tools to ask questions and think critically about our Torah stories, making connections between the historic text and today's society.

The Torah of Social Justice

Tyler Dratch



How might Torah help us change the world? In this class we will explore 10 of the most powerful social justice texts in the entire Torah. We will think about how these Torah texts speak to some of the more important issues in modern society and think about how we can use these texts to inform the social justice work we want to do in the world. We will talk about the Torah texts that have inspired social justice movements in the past and will look at some modern examples of Jewish social justice movements that use Torah in their activism today. We will also learn how to find Jewish texts that can inspire and inform our own activism using the library and online resources.



The Tent Fall 5778 Staff

(alphabetical order)

Roberta Bergstein, TI Education Program Manager	
	<p>Roberta is Temple Israel's full time Education Program Manager. This year, Roberta will be working in The Tent as one of the 8th grade OWL teachers alongside Tyler Dratch and Rabbi Suzie Jacobson. Roberta is in her second year at Hebrew College working towards the Master of Jewish Education degree. Did you know Roberta went to Brandeis? When not at TI, you can find Roberta on the tennis court - at Brandeis of course!</p>
Natalya Bernstein	
	<p>Natalya Bernstein is the Art Educator for The Tent, TI's religious school and the FJECC preschool at Temple Israel. She graduated from MassArt in '14 with a B.A. in Art Education. Combining her love for contemporary art and Jewish education, she teaches courses on art and activism, midrash and ethics, encouraging students to focus on the "process and discussion" around the artwork, rather than the "finished piece". When Natalya is not teaching, she loves to bike around the city, read and paint in her studio.</p>
Rabbi Shahr Colt	
	<p>Rabbi Shahr Colt is the Director of Congregational Learning at Dorshei Tzedek (a Reconstructionist congregation) in West Newton. Motivated to teach by the conviction that education is a powerful tool for <i>tikkun olam</i>, she loves helping students explore the resources of Jewish tradition as a way of deepening our understanding of the world around us and our role in it. She bikes in all weather, dances to all music, and looks forward to teaching at The Tent again this spring.</p>
Emilia Diamant	
	<p>Emilia Diamant, MSW, is the Executive Director of the Jeremiah Program-Boston. Jeremiah partners 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. She loves bringing together teens from different cultures, ethnicities, religions, and communities together to learn and grow as informed citizens. She lives in Boston with her boyfriend Nathan and dog Mabel.</p>
Tyler Dratch	
	<p>Tyler Dratch is a Rabbinical Student at Hebrew College. He was a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism advocating for economic justice and disability rights issues. During his time at the RAC, Tyler staffed the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar and worked with teens from across the country, including delegations from Temple Israel. He graduated from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary with Bachelors Degrees in Political Science and Hebrew Bible. Tyler is new to the Boston area, having grown up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He also teaches 5th graders in Temple Israel's religious school. When Tyler is not reaching he enjoys reading, hiking, playing the guitar (not very well), and studying Torah. He is passionate about talking about big ideas with all of his students!</p>



Cantor Roy Einhorn, Temple Israel



Cantor Roy B. Einhorn recently celebrated his 33rd 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, Tent Director; TI Assistant Director of Education – Engagement



Mike is honored to work with all the students, families, teachers, and partners of The Tent. Before his work as a Jewish educator, Mike spent five years as a high school Biology teacher and two years as the manager of a Beacon Hill restaurant. 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 a brief 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 six-year-old sons, Benjamin and Ezra.

Emily Fishman (EmFish)



Emily Fishman (EmFish) is a Torah reader, Talmud learner, Muppet fan, musical instrument dabbler, public transit fanatic, linguistics nerd, and bike rider. Professionally a speech-language pathologist, she also leads high holiday services at a local synagogue, tutors bar/bat mitzvah students, and teaches text to folks of all ages. She gained fluency in traditional Jewish texts from time spent in the Brandeis Beit Midrash and Yeshivat Hadar. EmFish is on the board of the National Havurah Committee, where she has been coordinating their accessibility efforts for several years.

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 one of your rabbis and the Education Director at TI. She is pretty happy all the time because she gets to be your rabbi and Education Director. 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. 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 is Rabbi at Temple Beth Zion’s in Brookline, MA. Originally from Chile, lived in Argentina and Israel. Ordained by the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies in 2002, Rav Claudia was the first Rabbi for NOAM, the Masorti-Conservative Youth Movement in Israel. She was also an Israeli Rabbinic Fellow of BJ, NY. Prior to TBZ, Rav Claudia was the Jewish Studies director at JCDS in Watertown, MA. Rav Claudia is passionate about Judaism, education, and excited that TBZ teens are part of the Tent. Claudia is married to Rabbi Ebn Leader and they have two daughter, Alma and Ariel.



Tali Puterman, TI Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer



Tali Puterman is the Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer at Temple Israel. Tali 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. 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?

Rabbi Matt Soffer, Temple Israel of Boston



Rabbi Matthew V. Soffer joined the Temple Israel Clergy Team following his ordination at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2010. At Temple Israel, he serves as senior associate rabbi, overseeing the congregation's social justice work and civic engagement, as well as directing the Village, TI's initiative for families with young children. He is an active member on the boards of Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA), the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, as well as the Pluralism Project at Harvard University. He takes pride in his wide range of projects, including TI's podcast "Pulpit on The Common," Torah Commentary at MyJewishLearning.com, and his comedy troop, "3 Rabbis Walk Into a Bar." His Rabbinic thesis, "Listening for Laughter: Sensing Humor in the Babylonian Talmud," is a window into his character and style.

Elana Weiner



Elana Weiner is a wandering Jew from north of Boston. She grew up super Jewy and developed a love of Jewish learning early on. Soon after graduating Wheaton College with a degree in Philosophy and a new love, Jewish monsters (ask her which Jewish creature is her favorite), she discovered a second passion: teaching Jewish Studies. Since that fateful day, she has enjoyed teaching religious school and sharing her love of Jewish Studies with others. She is currently teaching a course on Jewish Monsters at the Brandeis summer pre-college program Genesis, reveling in all that she is learning from her students, and thinking about her new interest: Jewish apocalyptic literature.

Rabbi David Winship, Temple Beth David



Rabbi 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 just received rabbinic ordination last year from Hebrew College. Rabbi David loves spending time outside, often paddling down the Charles in his canoe with a fishing line trailing behind him. Rabbi 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. Rabbi 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.