



The Tent

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

Course Catalog

Fall 5779: October 2018—January 2019



5779 Calendar*

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

September 2018 (no sessions)

9/3 – Labor Day, No Tent
9/10 – Rosh Hashanah, No Tent
9/17 – No Tent (Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Tues & Wed)
9/24 – Sukkot, No Tent

October 2018

10/1 – Simchat Torah, No Tent
10/8 – Indigenous People’s Day, No Tent
10/15 – First Night of The Tent 5779/Tent Orientation Night and Fall Kickoff
10/22 – Tent Fall 1
10/29 – Tent Fall 2

November 2018

11/5 – Tent Fall 3
11/12 – Veteran’s Day Observed, No Tent
11/19 – Tent Fall 4
11/26 – Tent Fall 5; Tent Family Night (tentative)

December 2017

12/3 – Tent Fall 6 (Hanukkah 2nd Candle)
12/10 – Tent Fall 7
12/17 – Tent Fall 8
12/19-31 – The Tent’s Boston-Haifa Connection Trip to Israel/Israel Mifgash
12/24 – Winter Break, No Tent
12/31 – Winter Break, No Tent

January 2018

1/7 – Tent Fall 9
1/14 – Tent Fall 10, End of Fall Semester
1/21 – MLK Day, No Tent

1/25-27 – 8th Grade NYC Trip
1/28 – Tent Seminar Night – 12th Grade “Jewish Life on Campus” Seminar and more

February 2018

2/4 – Tent Spring Kickoff “Taste-Of” Lessons
2/8-11 – L’Taken Social Justice Seminar Washington, D.C. Trip
2/11 – Tent Spring 1
2/18 – President’s Day, No Tent
2/25 – Tent Spring 2

March 2018

3/4 – Tent Spring 3
3/11 – Tent Spring 4
3/18 – Tent Spring 5
3/25 – Tent Spring 6

April 2018

4/1 – Tent Spring 7
4/8 – Tent Spring 8
4/15 – Patriots’ Day, No Tent
4/22 – Tent Spring 9 (Passover 4th Night)
4/29 – Tent Spring 10; The Tent Open House (Tentative*)

May 2018

5/6 – Honoring Yom Hashoah: The Tent Hosts “Womens’ Voices from Ravensbruck” (Tentative*)
5/13 – Tent Spring 11, End of Semester
5/20 – Last Night of The Tent 5778
5/27 – Memorial Day

*Tent Programs on 4/29 & 5/6 may swap dates.



Weekly Class Schedule

Hour 1 – 6:40-7:30	
Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8 th Grade Fall Semester Class, Part 1	R’ Suzie Jacobson, Roberta Bergstein, Jessica Lowenthal, and Ben Poor
(((Anti-Semitism in the Internet Era)))	Emilia Diamant and Jonah Tauber
Our Tent – Art Studio	Natalya
Disabilities in Modern Judaism	Debbie May
Tikkun, to Take on the World	R’ Matt Soffer and Tali Puterman
Hour 2 - 7:40-8:30	
Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8 th Grade Fall Semester Class, Part 2	R’ Suzie Jacobson, Roberta Bergstein, Jessica Lowenthal, and Ben Poor
Boston-Haifa Connection	R’ David Winship and Michael Fishbein
Create & Animate	Tali Puterman
Music Matters: How the Songs We Love Can Change Us	Judith Giller-Leinwohl
From Page to Stage	Cassie Seinuk
Five Jewish Languages	Jasmine Gothelf

Also in Hour 2 for TI Confirmation Students: “Covenant: The Fall 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 – Fall 5779

Our Whole Lives (OWL) – 8th Grade Fall Semester, Double Block

Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Roberta Bergstein, Jessica Lowenthal, and Ben Poor



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. *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.*

(((Anti-Semitism in the Internet Era)))

Emilia Diamant and Jonah Tauber



Part media literacy, part understanding Jewish identity in current contexts, this course is meant to give students the tools to recognize anti-Semitic rhetoric and dogwhistles, especially on the internet. The class will give an understanding of the place antisemitism has within the fascist worldview, a view that is (unfortunately) becoming more and more present in American society. Videos along with some readings will be at the center of the curriculum, with lots of discussion. Topics will include conspiracy theories, race and gender as they relate to antisemitism in the fascist worldview, historical origins of contemporary antisemitism, anti-Zionism in contrast with antisemitism, and some more general media criticism.

Our Tent – Art Studio

Natalya Bernstein



Students will collaborate with artist/educator Natalya Bernstein on a mural representing the diverse community of the Tent. Students will learn new techniques in collage, paper cutting, painting and portraiture as we all incorporate our own unique pieces to the whole. Come share your story and be part of this large, historical piece of Jewish art history!

Universal Access in the Jewish World (title still in progress)

Deborah May



Do you enjoy finding ways to help others? This course will go through different disabilities and explore how the Jewish community is accessible for people with these disabilities. We will explore different ways that we could improve upon our accessibility both individually and as a community.

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 7, 2019, to make our voices heard!

Please note: attendance to our TIKKUN Lobby Day Event on Beacon Hill (1/7/19) 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 David Winship and Mike Fishbein



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.

Create & Animate

Tali Puterman



What does it mean to be your Jewish self? How can you explore parts of Judaism you find meaningful, express yourself creatively, and learn a practical skill? What does it look like to do this in Jewish community? Together, let's learn how to make stop motion animation films. We'll go step-by-step writing scripts, creating props, and recording our own creative movies. While doing so, we'll explore and share parts of our Jewishness that feel meaningful to us, and learn from others in our community about what excites them. This class was created using the BimBam stop motion curriculum.

Music Matters: How the Songs We Love Can Change Us

Judith Giller-Leinwohl



Bono once said, "Music can change the world because it can change people." Have you ever listened to a song and thought to yourself, "This is something special?" In that moment sits the intersection of music and spirituality. Music appreciation is a space to share beloved music with others as a mode of connection, to analyze lyrics, to write your own songs, and enjoy the musical gifts so many artists have given to us. We will explore what is it about music that allows it to touch us so deeply, and work to understand how we can make meaning out of the songs with which we connect.

From Page to Stage

Cassie Seinuk



Do you have a great idea for a play? Does a Torah portion remind you of something you've seen on TV or in a movie? In this class, we will learn how to put original and inspired ideas onto the stage, by writing and creating short plays. Using theatre games, improv, we will get to explore, character, action, and Jewish texts to help inspire our scripts, and bring the characters to life! No previous writing or theatre experience required, just come with a big imagination and ready to say "Yes, and..."! This class will be a combination of sitting and writing, and on your feet movement, acting, and directing each other's work.

Five Jewish Languages

Jasmine Gothelf



Vaksn zolstu vi a tsibele mitn kop in dr'erd! (May you grow like an onion, with your head in the ground!) Join us for 10 weeks of learning about 5 different Jewish languages. We'll look back at the origin and history of Yiddish, Hebrew, Arabic, Ladino, and Aramaic, and how each was used, abused, and disused by Jews through the ages. We'll dedicate two weeks to each language, spending the second week on learning songs and phrases, including fun swears!



The Tent Fall 5779 Staff

(alphabetical order)

<p>Roberta Bergstein</p>	
	<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. Roberta is in her final 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>
<p>Natalya Bernstein</p>	
	<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>
<p>Emilia Diamant</p>	
	<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>
<p>Cantor Roy Einhorn, Temple Israel of Boston</p>	
	<p>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.</p>
<p>Mike Fishbein</p>	
	<p>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 currently a student of Brandeis University's Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. 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 sons, Benjamin and Ezra.</p>



Judith Giller-Leinwohl



Judith Giller-Leinwohl is a student at Harvard Divinity School, pursuing a career in interfaith and Humanist chaplaincy. She facilitates a group called Harry Potter and the Sacred Text, and is interested in how the lines between the secular and the sacred blur. This past summer she worked as a chaplaincy intern at Hebrew SeniorLife. She looks forward to working at The Tent and sharing music as a spiritual practice!

Brigid Goggin



Brigid Goggin has been at Temple Israel since 2014, and works as the Assistant Director of Education. 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.

Jasmine Gothelf



Jasmine Gothelf Winship is a proud feminist and foreign policy enthusiast, as well as a big Harry Potter fan. She loves Judaism and lives by the motto "no regrets." Growing up in an Israeli family, she is a native Hebrew speaker and has studied Spanish, French, and Arabic.

Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Temple Israel of Boston



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.

Jessica Lowenthal



Jessica Lowenthal is in her final year at Hebrew College Rabbinical School, and can't wait to be finished with homework! She will be part of the 8th Grade OWL teaching team and can't wait to dive into the year! Jessica loves talking about social justice issues, current affairs, Israel, and the many different ideas of God in Jewish history. This is her second year teaching at TI and first year at the Tent. When she isn't in class or teaching, she is hanging out with her family or napping, her two favorite activities.

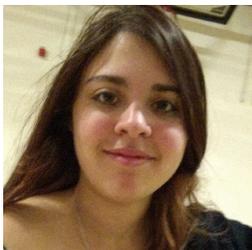


Ben Poor



Ben comes to the Tent after teaching in synagogues on and off for the last seven years. As a former 8th grader, Ben hopes to create a space with his co-teachers and students where everyone can ask big questions, think about their role in the world, and build a community rooted in fun, curiosity, and care (he’s pretty sure this is what Judaism is about, but would like to hear your thoughts). Outside of the Tent, Ben works as a Synagogue Organizer at the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Deborah May



Deborah May graduated with her bachelor's in Religion and American Sign Language from Central Michigan University. After that she went and got her master's in Deaf Education from Boston University. This is Deborah’s third year teaching at Temple Israel, and first year teaching in the Tent. When she is not working, she is usually out on an adventure with her dog.

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Tali Puterman



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?

Fallon Rubin



Fallon Rubin is the new Education Program Manager at Temple Israel of Boston. Fallon grew up in Cleveland and has been in Boston for the last 7 years. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew College specializing in experiential and special education. Fallon is passionate about the field of Jewish education and Jewish overnight camp. When she is not working, Fallon enjoys spending time outdoors and with friends and family.



Cassie Seinuk



Cassie is an award winning Jewish Cuban playwright and stage manager with an MFA from Lesley University, and BA from Brandeis University. Cassie's full-length play FROM THE DEEP is a recipient of the 2014 Latinx Playwrights Award at The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and the 2014 winner of the Pestalozzi Prize for best New Play at the Firehouse Center for the Arts New Work Festival. Seinuk is a recipient of the BU Jewish Cultural Endowment grant. Her short plays have been published by Smith & Kraus, and have been produced all over the country. As a stage manager and producer Cassie works freelance for local Boston area theatre companies including Central Square Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, The American Repertory Theatre and more. Cassie teaches Hebrew, Judaic Studies and runs the drama program at Keshet Newton and the Tot-Shabbat program at Temple Reyim Newton.

Rabbi Matt Soffer, Temple Israel of Boston



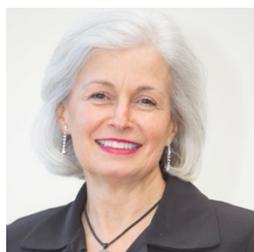
Rabbi Matthew V. Soffer joined the Temple Israel Clergy Team following his ordination at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2010. At Temple Israel, he serves as senior associate rabbi, overseeing the congregation's social justice work and civic engagement, as well as directing the 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.

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.