



# The Tent

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

## **Course Catalog**

***Spring 5779: February—May 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

### December 2018

12/3 – Tent Fall 6 (Hanukkah 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2019

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

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

### February 2019

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 2019

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

### April 2019

4/1 – Tent Spring 7  
4/8 – Tent Spring 8  
4/15 – Patriots’ Day, **No Tent**  
4/22 – Tent Spring 9 (Passover 4<sup>th</sup> Night)  
4/29 – Yom HaShoah Program at The Tent - Remembering the Holocaust: Stories from Across Generations (open to everyone)

### May 2019

5/6 – Tent Spring 10; **The Tent Open House**  
5/13 – Tent Spring 11, End of Semester  
5/20 – Last Night of The Tent 5779  
5/27 – Memorial Day



## Weekly Class Schedule

Hour 1 – 6:40-7:30	
Spirituality & Exercise Gym Lab	Roberta Bergstein
Living with Death	Shahar Colt and EmFish
Jewish Ritual Objects as Sculpture	Ari Zimmet
From Anatevka to West LA: Jewish Humor, Hits, and History (Part 1)	Ari Ebstein
Harry Potter and the Sacred Text	Judith Giller-Leinwohl
S-Torah-telling	Jesse Garlick
Boston-Haifa Connection	R’ David Winship and Michael Fishbein
Hour 2 - 7:40-8:30	
“The Good Place” and Jewish Ethics	Fallon Rubin
What is Whiteness, Anyway?	Emilia Diamant
Jewish Contemporary Art	Natalya Bernstein
From Anatevka to West LA: Jewish Humor, Hits, and History (Part 2)	Ari Ebstein
Constructing Jewish Creatures	Ari Zimmet
The Science of Everyday Miracles: Household STEM	Jacob Paikoff

## 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.



**Creative Arts** – Making things 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!



**Hands On Learning** – A major focus of this class will be learning by doing and getting your hands dirty.



**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 5779

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### Spirituality & Exercise Gym Lab

Roberta Bergstein



In my own practice, I have an idea that exercise and physical movement can enhance spirituality. As a class, we'll explore a Jewish value, text, or prayer each week and engage in physical exercise to think about the ways in which exercise affects our spiritual experiences. If you take this class, please be prepared to work out! It might not be a full 5-mile run or 60-minute weight lifting class, but we will get our heart rate up and think about how this affects our body's ability to be spiritual. If this sounds exciting and interesting to you, please come experiment with me!

### Living with Death

Shahar Colt and EmFish



All of us are going to die, and we will know people who die (if we don't already). This class will be an introduction to how Jewish tradition thinks about death. What do Jews do when someone dies- and why? How do Jews traditionally think about death and what happens next? How do we care for people at the end of their lives, and what can we do to support people who are grieving? Join us for some real talk about one of life's most basic, and most difficult things.

### Jewish Ritual Objects as Sculpture

Ari Zimmet



Have you ever noticed that most Jewish faith and celebrations revolve around beautiful and unique handmade objects? Whether it be a mezuzah, tallit, candlesticks, or a chanukiah that has been passed on for generations, most of these objects were designed for a specific purpose and made by the hands of people who have been making them their entire life. Most have specific requirements. In this class, we'll learn about all the rules that surround the objects central to a Jewish life and rituals. We will learn about the similarities between these rules and a branch of contemporary art; conceptual art. Using our knowledge, we will create our own objects and rules and/or recreate ritual objects using new materials.

## **From Anatevka to West LA: Jewish Humor, Hits, and History (Part 1)**

**Ari Ebstein**



Despite their nebbishy number, Jews have made chutzpadek contributions to American culture through comedy, theatre, and music. In part 1 of this class, students will experience a wide variety of content from different Jewish-American artists—everyone from Sholom Aleichem to Larry David—through TV, stand-up, musical theatre, and classical music. We will learn some history of where (most) of these writers came from, as well as see if we can arrive at what ethos in Jewish sensibility leads towards comedic and dramatic success. Well, what are you waiting for, already? Nu, come see what the fuss is about!

## **Harry Potter and the Sacred Text**

**Judith Giller-Leinwohl**



What do Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger have to do with spirituality? More than meets the eye. We welcome any and all Muggles to join us and explore how secular texts such as Harry Potter can help us make meaning out of our world. Through Jewish spiritual practices and close reading we will journey through the magical world and learn about ourselves, our beliefs, and our connection with each other.

## **S-Torah-telling**

**Jesse Garlick**



Each week I bring in a different story from the Tanakh, which we all read through together and then over the course of the class, through structured improvs and writing prompts, create a short comedic envisioning of each of these tales. By the end of the 10-12 weeks we have around 8 to 9 short plays which we can then present in any order.

## **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.

## “The Good Place” and Jewish Ethics

Fallon Rubin



Have you ever heard of the Trolley Problem? Well imagine you are on that trolley and you have to make a split second decision that impacts the lives of others - what do you do? This class will use clips from TV show “The Good Place” and follow the show’s trajectory to discuss topics of Jewish Ethics and the ethical practice of Mussar. If you enjoy talking in hypotheticals and then bringing them back to reality, this class is for you! We will be discussing philosophical and ethical quandaries to help us figure out what it means to be a good person and what Jews think about the idea of a Good Place anyways.

## What is Whiteness, Anyway?

Emilia Diamant



We talk a lot about race, but one question keeps coming up--what is white? Is there such a thing as white culture? Where did whiteness even come from? We'll use history, contemporary theory, and guest teachers to grapple with the concept of whiteness and figure out how we uniquely relate to it as Jews in America. Get ready to have some exciting, challenging, dynamic conversations!

## 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.*

## From Anatevka to West LA: Jewish Humor, Hits, and History (Part 2)

Ari Ebstein



This class will be a workshop for students interested in creating original works of theatre, comedy, or music. We will hone our skills through some basic theory, helpful exercises, and constructive feedback. To culminate our efforts, the class will give a showcase of our work on the last night of The Tent, May 20th. Please note Part 1 is not required to take Part 2. You make take either class on its own, or both.

## Constructing Jewish Creatures

Ari Zimmet



Do you like to get your hands dirty making sculptures? What about bringing creatures that have only been written about into physical being? In this class we will be exploring the monsters and creatures of the Talmud and Jewish folklore, discussing their identities and what roles they play within the stories in which they appear. After choosing a creature to focus on, students will create commentary and flesh out their creature's story before bringing them to life using wire, masking tape and plaster strips or other materials of their choice.

## The Science of Everyday Miracles: Household STEM

Jacob Paikoff



What can you do with milk, food coloring, and soap? What about mouse traps and CDs? Or hydrogen peroxide and yeast? Does it explode? Maybe! In this class we will explore household STEM; building, designing, and experimenting with items you can find around your house. These everyday objects can be used in many ways other than their original intentions, which shows us the magic, the holiness, in the everyday. Alongside each experiment or project, we will look at one of the *Nissim B'chol Yom*, the Daily Blessings, and see how we can find that holiness in our everyday worlds.



## The Tent Spring 5779 Staff

(alphabetical order)

Roberta Bergstein	
	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!
Natalya Bernstein	
	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.
Rabbi Shahar Colt, Dorshei Tzedek	
	Rabbi Shahar 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.
Emilia Diamant	
	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.
Ari Ebstein	
	Growing up in a household of Jewish music was a blessing beyond measure for Ari, who graduated Wesleyan University in 2016 with a degree in Community Studies but counts his production of an original musical with his friends as a more important experience than earning the diploma. He looks forward to sharing his love of Jewish humor, theatre, and melodies with students who hopefully may find joy and meaning in this tradition. He is especially amped to help students interested in creating original entertainment (whether it be music, drama, or comedy) accomplish a showcase, as that experience was fulfilling for him, and he hopes to share that feeling with young, aspiring artists (who may not even know that's who they are!) When not at Temple Israel on Sundays and Mondays, he can be found pondering how to turn America's surplus of lawns into gardens of local food.



<b>Mike Fishbein</b>	
	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.
<b>Emily Fishman (EmFish)</b>	
	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.
<b>Jesse Garlick</b>	
	Jesse Garlick is a Boston based actor, dancer and arts educator. Off-Broadway credits: Good (PTP/NYC). Regional credits: A Christmas Carol, Journey to the West, Arcadia (Central Square Theatre) Good, Assassins (New Repertory Theatre) Salome (Bridge Rep), Beowulf (Poets Theatre), A Midsummer Nights Dream (Classical Repertory Company), Who Would Be King, Yellow Bird Chase, A Story Beyond (Liars&Believers), Hamlet, As You Like It (Brown Box Theatre Project). Jesse is a faculty member at Boston Ballet’s ECI Department as well as a co-founder of 360 Dance Ensemble. He is also a teacher and theatre director at Newton South High School and Solomon Schechter Day School. Jesse holds a BFA in acting from Boston University as well as having attended the Academia Dell’Arte in Arezzo, Italy.
<b>Judith Giller-Leinwohl</b>	
	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!
<b>Brigid Goggin</b>	
	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.



**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.

**Jacob Paikoff**



Jacob is an engineer and entrepreneur, who loves everything STEM and is passionate about robotics, 3D printing, and making things explode (in a safe, controlled environment, of course). He previously was a counselor and the Robotics Instructor at the URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy for four summers, and now teaches at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley in their STEM Hebrew school program for 4th and 5th graders. Jacob also volunteers with FIRST Robotics, which he has been involved with for many years, in Florida, North Carolina, Indiana, and now here. He received his Bachelors' in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University, and his Masters' in Technical Entrepreneurship from the University of South Florida.

**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.

**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.

**Ari Zimmet**



Ari is an artist and art educator who grew up in Brookline, MA and attended TI from preschool throughout high school. For most of his life, art and museums confused and frustrated him, until he slowed down and started to look more closely. He teaches woodworking in Boston Public Schools and works as a Liaison between the Blue Hills Boys and Girls Club and Museum of Fine Arts. He graduated with a degree in Art History from Yale where he performed long-form improv and slam poetry. In his free time he enjoys making art with anything he can get his hands on, going to art museums and asking the guards about their favorite works, as well as cooking for his family.