KENESETH ISRAEL ADULT ED BROCHURE 2026-27

Hello community of learners and friends,

Thanks to the excellent recommendations of so many interested learners, the KI Adult Education committee can hardly wait for this year's programs to begin. We look forward to enjoying our vast array of outstanding programs together. Many of us have become friends with our speakers, and we are happy to see them again. There are also many new presenters.

The Adult Education program fee remains $75 for members of KI, $150 for members of other religious institutions, and $200 for the unaffiliated. Please pay with your KI membership dues or send a check to KI, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027. We deeply appreciate your financial support.

The generous sponsorship of the Rosenau Fund partially supports our speaker fees.

Lee Slobotkin, Carol Cooter, Brian Rissinger and Naomi Godel help make this program possible. We also appreciate those who suggest speakers, the REAP presenters and the KI presenters who speak without remuneration.

By consensus, most classes will continue via Zoom. This allows those who have moved to remain part of the community, and it allows us to have out-of-town speakers.

This schedule is subject to change.

Since many people like in-person get-togethers, the Adult Education committee is very excited to introduce two special lunch and learn programs this year. **Dr. Ruth Sandberg,** who was my "fabulous" teacher when I took the Florence Melton class at Gratz, will be teaching **Women in Jewish Tradition and Their Struggle for Equality.**

This course first explores the ways traditional Jewish law views women as unequal to men. We will then focus on Jewish women in the modern world and their struggle for the ordination of women as rabbis, equal to Jewish men in every way. This lunch-and-learn will meet at 12:30 on Thursday, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10 at our house. The last ten minutes of the class will be an open discussion of hot topics of the day.

In addition to the Adult Education membership fee, there is a surcharge of $40 for this class. Class size will be limited to 15-20 participants and KI members will be given priority. Please let me know if you need special consideration.

A second lunch-and-learn, **Jews by Choice,** taught by **Rabbi Jon Cutler** and also limited to 15 participants, will have a surcharge of $30. It will meet on Thursday, April 1, May, 6 and June 3 at 12:30 at our house. The last ten minutes of the class will be an open discussion of hot topics of the day.

The Jewish community today faces a crisis that is easy to name in statistics and harder to face in the heart: declining affiliation, thinning congregations, communities that are aging faster than they are growing, and families drifting from Jewish life without any single dramatic break, simply through the slow erosion of connection and belonging.

In forty years as a rabbi, people who were not Jewish have kept knocking on the door of my synagogue. They learned, converted, and became pillars of the community.

This course is about those seekers: Who they are, what brought them through the door, and what Judaism gains when they come.

With appreciation and expectations for another great year,

Caryl

<u>Monday, July 13, 10:30 a.m.//</u>
FROMENTAL HALEVY'S *LA JUIVE* (The Jew)
MARGIE SATINSKY

Fromental Halevy completed thirty-three operas during his lifetime. *La Juive* is the one for which he is best known. The opera has been described as one of the grandest of grand operas. It contains all the bells and whistles, including major choruses, a spectacular procession in Act I, and impressive celebrations in Act III. Spoiler alert - it culminates with the heroine plunging into a vat of boiling water in Act V. One newspaper enthusiastically described *La Juive* as the eighth wonder of the world! Here's the excerpt from the rave review: "Nothing is missing in this prodigious resurrection of a distant century."

Margie Satinsky has been teaching opera appreciation courses since 2012. She initially taught in-person classes at OLLI at Duke. Since the pandemic, she has been teaching online courses on her own. Margie is a long-time music lover who was born and raised in the Philadelphia area. She lived in Salem, MA for many years prior to moving to Durham, NC in 1994. She is a graduate of Brown University (BA in History), University of Pennsylvania (MA in Political Science), and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (MBA in Healthcare Administration).

In addition to teaching, Margie is one of the founders and President of Triangle Wagner Society, a non-profit that focuses on the appreciation of Wagner's music and that has many interesting programs. The website for Triangle Wagner Society is www.trianglewagnersociety.com. As President of the Society, Margie engages the speakers and artists, oversees financial management and membership, writes the content for the website and all communications.

<u>Monday, July 20 10:30 a.m./</u>
HAYM SALOMON—IMMIGRANT, PATRIOT, FINANCIER, AND FORGOTTEN COLONIAL HERO
JIM RUBILLO
The American Revolution required more than speeches and soldiers. It required money and supplies. Haym Salomon was one of those individuals who played a key role in financing our country's birth. Born in Poland, this Jewish immigrant agent and broker became one of the prime financiers of the Continental Congress. This talk outlines the life and times of this Patriot who, often with his own money, provided Washington's Army with needed supplies and resources, including the money to fund the Battle of Yorktown

· *Our speaker, Jim Rubillo, grew up in the Eastwick section of southwest Philadelphia, and lived in Upper Moreland for 48 years before moving to Lower Gwynedd.*

· *For most of his 50-year professional career Jim worked at Bucks County Community College (BCCC) in a variety of roles, including professor of mathematics, dean for information systems, and chair of the department of mathematics and computer science.*

· *In the last eight years of his career, Jim served as the executive director and CEO of the 100,000-member, non-profit organization - The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.*

· *Jim has conducted K-12 in-service programs for schools across the continent on a variety of topics. He has served as a consultant for many corporations in the areas of strategic planning, quality control, and project management. Jim is a frequent speaker at professional meetings and has made over 1000 presentations, at least one in every one of the 50 states.*

Jim received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from West Chester University in recognition of his accomplishments in providing leadership in mathematics education across the nation. He also received the Ross Taylor/Glenn Gilbert National Leadership Award. In 2013, Jim received the NCTM Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics Education.

· *Jim has an intense interest in local history and now serves on the board of the Old York Road Historical Society,*

<u>Monday, July 27 10:30 a.m.//</u>
JEWS IN BASEBALL
BURT SIEGEL
This talk will include some "inside baseball" information like specific years of the time the pitcher, catcher, batter and, I believe, umpire in a game were all Jewish . And the names some players used, such as being called Cooney when their real

name was Cohen, etc. I present this lecture in a somewhat sociological sense rather than simply the well-known stories about who didn't play on Yom Kippur. There is a good bit of behind-the-scenes stuff that I believe even non-baseball fans will find of interest.
Burt was raised by his dad to have 3 strong loyalties: the Democratic party, Judaism and the Dodgers, who I pray will make aliyah back to their homeland in Brooklyn.
He is the long-retired executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia.He attended his first baseball game at Ebbets Field at the age of 8, where he made the mistake of cheering when Stan Musial hit a home run because he liked the bird on his uniform. But he later recalled his dad telling him that he greatly respected Musial because he was one of the few players who reached out to Jackie Robinson when he came up to the majors
If you ever come across a slim book called Ebbets Field Memories *in which appears a short essay about keeping Pesach on opening day, it was written by Burt. He was also a founding member of the Briesheet Society z'l, a group of rabbis and Jewish agency professionals, established under the authority of Rabbi Richard Address, who would go to opening day for the Phillies and hope for a BIG INNING.*

<u>Monday, August 3 10:30 a.m./</u>
BENJAMIN LAY
EVONNE AND ISAAC KRUGER

<u>Monday, August 10 10:30 a.m./</u>
PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE JEWS OF RHODE ISLAND
AMY COHEN
In 1790, President George Washington travelled to Rhode Island and spent time at the Tuoro Synagogue in Newport, the spiritual home to a community that had existed since the 1650s. Following his visit, Washington wrote a letter to synagogue leader Moses Seixas in which he affirmed that the United States government "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." This talk will explore the context of Washington's Rhode Island trip, the history of the Newport Jewish community, and the ways in which Washington himself both achieved and fell short of his promise of tolerance. In 2020, Kenneseth Israel commissioned Cantor Johnathan Comisar to write a cantata inspired by Washington's letter. This talk will include excerpts of a film about the cantata for which Rabbi Lance Sussman provided commentary.

Amy Jane Cohen spent twenty years as a middle and high school social studies teacher. In 2013, she became the Director of Education at a film company, where she developed educational materials to accompany documentaries. Her first book Black History in the Philadelphia Landscape: Deep Roots, Continuing Legacy *was published by Temple University Press in 2024.*

Monday, August 17 10:30 a.m.//
NAVY TRIVIA
JACK LIEBERMAN, Captain, US Navy (Retired)
The Navy has no official motto, though "Non sibi sed patriae" (Not self but country) is often cited. During his time in the Navy, Jack came across many obscure facts, tales and stories - and he will speak about some of them in a PowerPoint presentation. A lot of the accounts are accurate but several are myths. Jack will also speak about a number of notable individuals, presidents, actors and personalities who wore the cloth of the country, in the Navy.
Jack enlisted in the US NAVY at age 19. His first duty was scrubbing urinals & toilets with a toothbrush. After nearly three decades in the Navy, he attained the rank of Navy Captain - with three commands, his final one leading a Convoy of 16 Merchant Ships, in the Indian Ocean from the island of Diego Garcia.

Monday, August 24 10:30 a.m.//
JEWS IN CHINA
LOUIS FRIEDLER
Louis Friedler will give a presentation and lead a discussion on the four major periods of immigration of Jews to China. The first, to Kaifeng, may have started as early as 1000 CE. The second, usually associated with the Sassoon family, was from Bagdad (through India and London) mostly to Shanghai in the mid 1800's. The third, not as widely known, was from Russia to Harbin in the early 20th century. And the final, made up of Jewish refugees escaping the Holocaust, was from Germany and Austria to Shanghai in the 1940s. We will discuss why Shanghai became a center of Jews in China.
KI member Louis Friedler earned a BA from Colby College and a Ph D from the University of Alberta in Mathematics, was an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, and is now Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Arcadia University.
In addition to teaching and doing research in Mathematics for 42 years at various universities, he has volunteered time tutoring high school students from Chester and Cheltenham, has taught courses in Chinese film at Arcadia, and taught Chinese, Israeli, and (soon will teach) Canadian film for OLLI, Temple University's senior program. He has been to China eight times.

<u>Monday, August 31 10:30 a.m./</u>
BEN SHAHN: THE PEOPLE'S PAINTER
JANET MANDEL
Ben Shahn is celebrated for his bold, anguished imagery, which he deployed in order to protest against social injustice. His paintings, photographs, graphic art, and public murals were his way of practicing *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. For Shahn, art was a powerful tool for affecting change. He asserted: "If we are to have values, a spiritual life and a culture, these things must find imagery and interpretation through the arts." Part I of this talk examines Shahn's life and remarkable work up through the end of World War II, and Part II explores the spectacular productivity of his later years.
Janet Mandel taught in New Jersey's public schools for 32 years, the last eighteen of which were at Columbia High School in Maplewood, where she taught English, art history, and World Languages and Cultures. Now retired, Janet presents illustrated talks on a variety of art history topics at adult schools, libraries, museums, senior centers, community centers, and similar venues.

<u>Thursday, September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10 1:00 p.m.</u> at our home. Light lunch and learn.
WOMEN IN THE JEWISH TRADITION AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY
RABBI DR. RUTH SANDBERG
This course first explores the ways traditional Jewish law views women as unequal to men. We will then focus on Jewish women in the modern world and their struggle for the ordination of women as Rabbis, equal to Jewish men in every way. This lunch and learn will meet at noon on Thursday, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10 **at our house.**
In addition to the Adult Education membership fee, there is a surcharge of $40 for this class. Class will be limited to 24 participants. Please let me know if you need special consideration.
Ruth Sandberg received her B.A. as a double-major in Classical Greek and History of Religion from Bryn Mawr College; Rabbinical Ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; and a Ph.D. in Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature, specializing in Rabbinics, from the University of Pennsylvania. She served for five years as a Rabbi and Director of Education at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, after which she became a member of the Jewish Studies faculty at Gratz College until her retirement in 2026.

Monday, September 14 10:30 a.m./
IRVING BERLIN
SUSAN BENJAMIN

Monday, September 21
Yom Kippur

Monday, September 28 10:30 a.m./
IN CELEBRATION OF THE USA 250TH ANNIVERSARY:
A LOOK AT AMERICAN ART
DEBBIE WELLS
On July 4, 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. So much has happened in those two and half centuries, but the focus of this presentation is how art has always played a role in shaping our country. As a young country, America looked to France, England, Spain and Italy as the leaders in fine art and design. Today, our nation ranks equal (or even above) the Europeans on the global art scene. Learn how NYC and other American cities established new art movements from the Hudson River School, American Impressionism, Abstract Expressionism, photography as an art form, and more. In a survey of American artists (both men and women) and their artwork, it will become clear how innovative and creative our country has become!
Debbie Wells is the President of Artful Buzz, a company that offers art lovers of all levels in-person tours of museums and art galleries, as well as lectures and virtual programming in art and design. Debbie is a graduate of Parsons School of Design (BFA/MA), Past President of the Art League of Long Island and an Artist Member of the historic Salmagundi Club. She is expert in all things art, including museum and gallery curator, NYC tour guide, graphic designer, arts journalist, muralist, photographer, art historian, and more. Her popular free e-newsletter, Artful Morning Brew, is read by nearly 2,500 art-lovers in NYC and beyond. For more information, visit www.artfulbuzz.com

Monday, October 5 10:30 a.m./
SALVADOR DALI: A LOOK AT SOME OF HIS JEWISH-THEMED WORKS AND HIS PRO-FASCIST HISTORY
CAROL SALUS
Dali is known for his works with their detailed, dream-like imagery. With the rise of anti-Semitism in the 1930s, the artist painted several works which show interest in Hitler. He was exiled from the Surrealists for his flirtation with Nazism. Decades later, he was selected by the State of Israel to create works for its twentieth anniversary. His works for this celebratory event are striking in their treatment

of Biblical and contemporary history. During Dali's meeting with Freud in London, the artist painted his portrait which now is in the Freud Museum in London. This talk raises the question of how to evaluate his radiant Jewish-themed works and his feelings about Jews. Can we separate the man from the art?
Carol Salus is Professor Emerita at Kent State University, where she retired at the rank of full professor. She taught in the department of art history. Since retirement she has been teaching a variety of art history courses for seniors through Case Western Reserve University. She received a BA from Carnegie- Mellon University, an MS from Syracuse U, an MA from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D from Ohio State University. She published 19 scholarly peer-reviewed articles on such artists as Andy Warhol, Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, and others. Her book titled Picasso's Vision of Celestina: The Artist and the Procuress *is a study of Picasso's response to a Spanish literary masterpiece. Carol's work has been recognized by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and several grants from the Kent State University Research Council.*

Thursday, October 8, 12:30 Light lunch and learn at our house
WOMEN IN THE JEWISH TRADITION AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY
RABBI DR. RUTH SANDBERG
This course first explores the ways traditional Jewish law views women as unequal to men. We will then focus on Jewish women in the modern world and their struggle for the ordination of women as Rabbis, equal to Jewish men in every way.
Ruth Sandberg received her B.A. as a double-major in Classical Greek and History of Religion from Bryn Mawr College; Rabbinical Ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; and a Ph.D. in Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature, specializing in Rabbinics, from the University of Pennsylvania. She served for five years as a Rabbi and Director of Education at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, after which she became a member of the Jewish Studies faculty at Gratz College until her retirement in 2026.

Monday, October 12, 10:30 a.m.
Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day

Monday, October 19, 10:30 a.m./
TOM LEHRER
THERESA WEISSINGER
Tom Lehrer was an irreverent Jewish singer/ songwriter from the fifties.

Theresa will give an overview of the academic and musical careers of the infamous lyricist/mathematician Tom Lehrer, who died this year at the age of 97. His lyrics will be examined and enjoyed.
Theresa taught elementary grades in Philadelphia private schools for forty-one years. She received a BA in psychology from Skidmore College.

Monday, October 26 10:30 a.m.
CURIOUS ABOUT AI?
WHAT IT IS, WHY IT MATTERS, AND HOW IT MAY SHAPE OUR FUTURE
***KATHY GENDELMAN* from Arlene Holtz**
Artificial Intelligence is suddenly everywhere — in the news, on our phones, in schools, workplaces, medicine, and everyday conversations. But what exactly is AI, and why are so many people excited, nervous, or confused about it?
This engaging and interactive Zoom presentation is designed for curious adults who want to better understand the rapidly changing world of AI in a thoughtful, non-technical, and human-centered way.
Together, we'll explore:
• What AI actually is (without the jargon)
• Why AI is being compared to major inventions like television, the internet, and smartphones
• How AI may impact jobs, education, creativity, and daily life
• Real concerns about misinformation, privacy, and overreliance
• Positive ways AI can assist with writing, learning, organizing, travel, storytelling, and preserving family memories
Through relatable examples, live demonstrations, discussion, humor, and visual storytelling, participants will see how AI tools like ChatGPT (Claude, Manus, Google Gemini, etc) can act as helpful assistants, while still requiring human judgment, wisdom, and creativity.
No technical experience is needed. Just curiosity.
Kathy Gendelman is an educator, curriculum developer, consultant, and lifelong learner with a diverse professional background spanning education, leadership, wellness, media, and emerging technology. She holds a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree in Educational Administration, and completed doctoral coursework (ABD) in Educational Leadership and Administration.
Throughout her career, she served in both the Philadelphia and New Jersey school systems as a teacher and assistant principal, with a strong focus on curriculum development, leadership, communication, and student engagement. In addition to her work in education, she continues to coach fitness both in-person and virtually, helping individuals improve wellness, confidence, and quality of life at every stage.

Passionate about helping people adapt to change in practical and meaningful ways, Kathy now explores how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence can support creativity, learning, communication, and everyday life. Her work blends education, storytelling, wellness, and technology with a warm, conversational teaching style that encourages curiosity without intimidation. She especially enjoys helping adults better understand the rapidly changing world around them while reminding people that wisdom, human connection, and lifelong learning remain timeless.

Monday, November 2 10:30 a.m. /
MODERN STORYTELLERS: ROMARE BEARDEN, JACOB LAWRENCE AND FAITH RINGGOLD
ELANA KAPLAN
Join Elana Kaplan, museum educator and lecturer, for "Modern Storytellers: Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, and Faith Ringgold." This engaging lecture explores how these three influential African-American artists used narrative to communicate powerful messages, delving into themes of history, politics, everyday life, and fantasy — all expressed through bold, dynamic, and vibrant visual storytelling.
Elana Kaplan is an independent museum educator and lecturer with over 30 years of experience, including working as an educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for 25 years. She is the creator of Museums Unmasked, an innovative museum tour and learning program for both adult and school groups. Elana delivers engaging Art History lectures and virtual museum tours to audiences around the world, and regularly presents to diverse groups across the tri-state area—including libraries, senior centers, universities, schools, and places of worship. She holds a BA in Jewish History from Barnard College and a dual MA in Jewish History and Museum Studies from NYU.

Monday, November 9, 10:30 a.m./
BEN SHANH: THE PEOPLE'S PAINTER Part 2
JANET MANDEL

Thursday, November 12 12:30 Light lunch and learn at our house
WOMEN IN THE JEWISH TRADITION AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY
RABBI DR. RUTH SANDBERG
This course first explores the ways traditional Jewish law views women as unequal to men. We will then focus on Jewish women in the modern world and their struggle for the ordination of women as Rabbis, equal to Jewish men in every way.

Ruth Sandberg received her B.A. as a double-major in Classical Greek and History of Religion from Bryn Mawr College; Rabbinical Ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; and a Ph.D. in Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature, specializing in Rabbinics, from the University of Pennsylvania. She served for five years as a Rabbi and Director of Education at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, after which she became a member of the Jewish Studies faculty at Gratz College until her retirement in 2026.

Monday, November16, 10:30 a.m./
ART SPEIGELMAN'S MAUS
SYLVIA LAUDIEN-MEO
Art Spiegelman's epic graphic novel MAUS is a masterpiece on so many different levels! Spiegelman records history, based on the oral account of his father, who survived Auschwitz and moved his family to NYC via Sweden. But besides the most intriguing insightful story of persecution and survival, Spiegelman also reflects on the complex relationship between father and son, shaped by the burden of the past as well as a mixture of generational and cultural differences. As readers, we are constantly challenged with understanding the horrors of human cruelty, and complete loss of morale ; how we as individuals all play a decisive role in history with every decision we make, ; our own civil courage and decency. In addition, MAUS clearly and decisively elevates the medium of graphic novel into the realm of a fine arts and literary masterpiece!
Sylvia Laudien-Meo is an art historian who has been working as an art professional in various capacities for the past 3 decades, teaching at NYC art museums (MoMA, The Guggenheim and the Jewish Museum), guiding art and architecture tours for the Municipal Art Society, Brandeis and UFT as well as private clients, teaching at Fairleigh Dickinson University and now mostly offering virtual tours and lectures with clients including OLLI lectures with clients including OLLI, the New York Adventure Club and many other organizations . Sylvia was born and raised in Germany and came to the US as an Art History graduate student on a scholarship for Columbia Univ.; after working and raising her family in NYC, she just recently relocated to St Pete, FL.

Monday November 23, 10:30 a.m./
THE BIRDS AND THE BEES May need to switch date
SCOTT GILBERT
Much of what we think we know about fertilization, embryonic development, and birth is myth, not science. It's a "fun" biology lecture.
Scott Gilbert was Professor of Biology at Swarthmore College, now lives in Portland Oregon, and has backgrounds in both Biology and Religion. (Yes, he's

Jewish. No, he's not a Rabbi.) Instead of my telling you his credentials, see his page on the Swarthmore College website:
https://www.swarthmore.edu/profile/scott-gilbert
Toward the bottom of the page, see the picture of him with the Dalai Lama, who had invited him to talk. Also at the bottom is a link to audio and transcript of a talk he gave at the Reproductive Health Association. The talk was "When Does Personhood Begin?" (For your amusement, at the end of the introductory CV there's a link to the klezmer band Knish.)

Monday, November 30 10:30 a.m./
MARY FIELDS
DAISY CENTURY
Mary Fields was rough around the edges. She drank whiskey, smoked a cigar, fist-fought with the men, had shoot-outs and spoke strong language. She did something daring by becoming the first Black woman to deliver the mail in Montana in the 1800s, driving the stagecoach.

Monday, December 7, 10:30 a.m./
JEWISH MAGICIANS
LARRY GROSSMAN
Jewish Magicians: The Famous and Infamous. Prestidigitation as a Jewish vocation? Yiddish legerdemain? Learn about the legends, the dynasties, and personalities in one of the oldest of theatrical arts. Larry Grossman will focus on a few famous Jewish magicians, two scoundrels, and several very interesting characters. He will discuss historical information, anecdotes, and Jewish connections.
One of my objectives is to point out, where possible, the Jewish aspects of the magician's life. For example, many people do not realize that Houdini was Jewish and that his father was a Rabbi. Presently, I am thinking about focusing on a few prominent Jewish magicians, two scoundrels, and several very interesting characters.
Larry Grossman is a retired anesthesiologist living in Maple Glen, PA. After he started using magic tricks to engage his pediatric patients during his residency, he began his journey into magic. He was a past president of The International Brotherhood of Magicians' Ring #179 - Baltimore, and belongs to the society's Order of Merlin. From 2024-2025, he was president of The Society of American Magicians' Assembly #4 - Philadelphia. He is also a member of The International Brotherhood of Magicians' Ring #6 - Philadelphia. Over the years, he has presented lectures and exhibits (Tricks are for Kids: Magical Techniques for Allaying Fear in the OR) and performed for adults and children in various settings.

<u>Thursday, December 10 12:30 Light lunch and learn at our house</u>
WOMEN IN THE JEWISH TRADITION AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY
RABBI DR. RUTH SANDBERG
This course first explores the ways traditional Jewish law views women as unequal to men. We will then focus on Jewish women in the modern world and their struggle for the ordination of women as Rabbis, equal to Jewish men in every way.
Ruth Sandberg received her B.A. as a double-major in Classical Greek and History of Religion from Bryn Mawr College; Rabbinical Ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; and a Ph.D. in Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature, specializing in Rabbinics, from the University of Pennsylvania. She served for five years as a Rabbi and Director of Education at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, after which she became a member of the Jewish Studies faculty at Gratz College until her retirement in 2026.

<u>Monday, December 14 10:30 a.m/.</u>
PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN AND THE JEWS
DR. ROBERT WATSON
rwatson@lynn.edu

<u>Monday, February 22 10:30 a.m./</u>
IRANIAN JEWS IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES
LIOR STERNFELD
This talk focuses on a journey in Iranian-Jewish history, and will take us through their history, from the margins of society to the core of the nation-building project in the 1970s. We will explore how Iranian Jews fared during the revolution and their struggles under the Islamic Republic. Then, we will try to better understand the role the Jewish community played in the relationship between Iran and Israel and their experience in the post-1979 diaspora.
Lior Sternfeld is an associate professor of history and Jewish Studies. He is a social historian of the modern Middle East with particular interests in the histories of the Jewish people and other minorities of the region. Sternfeld's first book, titled Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth-Century Iran *(Stanford University Press, 2018), examines, against the backdrop of Iranian nationalism, Zionism, and constitutionalism, the development and integration of Jewish communities in Iran into the nation-building projects of the last century.*
In 2022, Sternfeld co-authored with Hassan Sarbakhshian and Parvaneh Vahidmanesh Jews of Iran: A Photographic Chronicle *(Penn State University*

Press, 2022), and together with Honaida Ghanim and Tamir Sorek, they established the journal Palestine/Israel Review*, where he serves as the Associate Editor.*

Monday, March 1 10:30 a.m./
BEES
JONATHAN "STINGS" SCHMALZBACH
Did you know KI has its own beekeepers and hives? That the honey we source is given out to the congregation during Rosh Hashana?
Bee prepared to be wowed by these buzz-worthy creatures that play a crucial role in agriculture and ecosystems. Small, but mighty, these itsy insects are anything but trivial. For instance, to make just one pound of honey, bees must visit roughly two million flowers and fly about 55,000 miles. And, they have 170 odor receptors, giving them a sense of smell 50 times more powerful than a dog's.
This lecture will provide an overview of honey bees, hive management, and the responsibilities of a beekeeper. Participants will learn about bee colonies, including the roles of the queen, workers, and drones, and how these insects work together as a highly organized society. From there, equipment needed to get started, such as hives, frames, protective clothing, smokers, and basic tools will be on the menu. Another important topic is bee health. Common pests and diseases, including mites and hive beetles, will be discussed as well as methods for maintaining colony health.
Jonathan Schmalzbach has worn more hats than Bartholomew Cubbins. He is a cruciverbalist, with 41 NY Times credits to his name. Squeezed out a living bartending in Santa Fe. Loved his time as Executive Director of the Independence Hall Association in the City of Brotherly Love. Co-founded a digital education company and spent over two decades creating digital K-12 courses. Founded an all men's reading group (going 10 years strong) as well as an online film club. Owned a restaurant in Mt. Airy named Hamlet. And is a member of the KI Board of Directors as well as one of KI's beekeepers.

Monday, March 8 10:30 a.m.?
WPA
JANET MANDEL

Monday, March 15 10:30 a.m./
GERTRUDE STEIN And HER SALON IN PARIS
DEBBIE WELLS
American Gertrude Stein was a fixture on the Parisian art and literary scene with her companion Alice B. Toklas. They hosted legendary salons and were huge

patrons of creatives from Picasso to Hemingway. Learn about her life and how she became a leading art influencer of modern art. Following the concept of grand cultural salons throughout history, Stein used her passion for art in ways that can still be appreciated today.

Monday, March 22 10:30 a.m.//

BOOK IT!! LITERARY JOURNALS

BEV ROSEN

Join Bev Rosen as she discusses current fiction and non- fiction books that take us on intriguing journeys around the world and to our interior quests for identity and belonging.

Bev Rosen, a popular leader in the cultural community, reviews books, theater productions and films for a variety of audiences throughout the greater Philadelphia region. Bev also facilitates a number of Book Groups.

Monday, March 29 10:30 a.m./

VICTORIA'S DAUGHTERS

DR. SUSAN ADLER

Queen Victoria had 5 daughters who, of course, needed to marry royalty. By the outbreak of WWI, Victoria was the grandmother of most European royalty. It didn't stop war, but I think it's interesting.

Thursday, April 1, 12:30 Light Lunch and Learn

JEWS BY CHOICE

RABBI JON CUTLER

The Jewish community today faces a crisis that is easy to name in statistics and harder to face in the heart: declining affiliation, thinning congregations, communities that are aging faster than they are growing, and families drifting from Jewish life without any single dramatic break, simply through the slow erosion of connection and belonging.

In forty years as a rabbi, people who were not Jewish have kept knocking on the door of my synagogue. They learned, converted, and became pillars of the community. This course is about those seekers: Who they are, what brought them through the door, and what Judaism gains when they come.

Rabbi Cutler, a native of Philadelphia, earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Temple University in Religious Studies (1981). He earned a Master of Hebrew Letters and ordination as a Rabbi from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pa (1987). He then earned his Doctor of Ministry (Counseling) from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York (1996).

Rabbi Cutler is a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Chaplain Corps, a position he held for 32 years. He served on active duty for five years Naval Station Subic Bay Philippines, Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, N.C., and Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan.

He was the Deputy Chaplain of the US Marine Corps (2015-2017), the Chief of Chaplains' Office, Pentagon. He served as the Deputy Chaplain for the Naval Installations Command, Washington Navy Yard (2013-2015). He was the Force Chaplain for the US Navy Sea Systems Command (2015) to provide PTSD chaplaincy to over 3,000 personnel after an active shooter incident. In addition, he was the Deputy Command Chaplain for the US 6th Fleet, U.S. Forces Europe and Africa (2012-2013). He was mobilized to East Africa, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa as the Force Chaplain and Director of Religious Affairs (2011-2012); mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Al Anbar, Province, Iraq as the only Jewish chaplain and senior chaplain, a base of 18,000 personnel (2008-2009); after September 11, 2001 attacks he was attached to a mortuary affairs team at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.; Desert Storm with the First Marine Expeditionary Force as the only Jewish chaplain for Marines and Navy in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (1991).

Rabbi's extensive pulpit experience includes serving four congregations in his civilian career – Congregation Bet Tikva, Flemington, N.J. (1993-1999); Congregation Tiferes B'nai Israel, Warrington, Pa. (1999-2007); and Darkaynu, Warrington, Pa. (2009-2015). He also served as an interim rabbi at Congregation Beth Hatikva (JRF), Summit, N.J. (2013-2014). Presently serves Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County, PA (2015-present).

Rabbi Cutler served as a hospice chaplain for Abramson Center for Jewish Life. He was an adjunct professor teaching Judaic Studies, Gratz College Melrose Park, Pa.; philosophy and religion, Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, Pa.; and counseling Psychology (graduate program) Holy Family University, Philadelphia, Pa.

He is a recipient of various awards including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards).



<u>Monday, April 5 10:30 a.m./</u>
THE SIXTIES: REVOLUTIONS HEAT UP
GEORGE STASSA

<u>Monday, April 12 10:30 a.m.?</u>
JANET MANDEL

<u>Monday, April 19 10:30 a.m.//</u>
IMAGES OF CONTEMPORARY HOLOCAUST REPRESENTATION
CAROL SALUS
How has the Holocaust come to be commemorated in American and European modern monuments? How can a catastrophe of stupendous proportions be commemorated? Among my selections is the huge memorial in Berlin. I interviewed the archivist in Berlin and the architect in Manhattan and published

this. Other European monuments discussed are the tunnel-like Monument to the Martyrs of the Deportation in Paris and the Vienna Holocaust Memorial,which recalls a closed library. Andy Goldsworthy's Garden of Stones in Manhattan, The New England Holocaust Memorial, and George Segal's figurative Holocaust in San Francisco are also examined. Open discussion considers which monuments are most effective. I published an article on the Berlin Holocaust Memorial and interviewed the archivist on site and the architect, Peter Eisenman, in his Manhattan office.

Monday, April 26 10:30 a.m./
THE BAUHAUS
ALVA HORTON (from Margie Satinsky)
Combining the arts and crafts movement with early twentieth-century methods of industrialization against a backdrop of social turmoil and a new approach to arts education, Germany's "Staatliche Bauhaus" transformed design and established the Modernist style that remains popular nearly 100 years later. Founded by Walter Gropius with instructors including Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Marcel Breuer, and Joseph Albers (to name just a few), and later led by Mies van der Rohe; this class will specifically explore the lives of the Jewish students and teachers through the school's origins, its closure by the Nazis, and the migration of its theories, practices, and style to America, England, and Israel.
With a classical education in Studio Art and Interior Design as well as a Master's degree in Architectural History (University of York, England), Alva Horton owns and operates The Assemblage Studio, a design firm specializing in what the German modernists called "gesamkunstwerk" or a "total work of art," also known today as "Branded Interiors". She sits on her local Historic Preservation Commission, teaches OLLI classes at Duke University, and regularly documents her travels, collections, and design processes on social media.

Monday, May 3 10:30 a.m.
BOB HOPE
SUSAN BENJAMIN

Thursday, May 6 12:30 Light lunch and learn at our house
JEWS BY CHOICE
RABBI JON CUTLER
The Jewish community today faces a crisis that is easy to name in statistics and harder to face in the heart: declining affiliation, thinning congregations, communities that are aging faster than they are growing, and families drifting from

Jewish life without any single dramatic break, simply through the slow erosion of connection and belonging.
In forty years as a rabbi, people who were not Jewish have kept knocking on the door of my synagogue. They learned, converted, and became pillars of the community. This course is about those seekers: Who they are, what brought them through the door, and what Judaism gains when they come.

Monday, May 10 10:30 a.m.
RED SCARE
GEORGE STASSA

Monday, May 17 10:30 a.m./
CINDY LITTLE
Beginning in the mid 1800's American women became involved with historic preservation as a way to demonstrate their patriotism and shape the country's historical narrative. Along the way the choices they made of sites to save and open to the public, initially focused on famous men, but also preserved women's historical experience at the site. Women preservationists perfected lobbying, fundraising, outreach, and site management skills starting in the 1850's and continuing to today. Presentation will feature among others Mount Vernon, Clara Barton House, Betsy Ross House, Hull House, Paulsdale, Seneca Falls, and the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women.
Cynthia J. Little, Ph.D, has been involved with public history and civic life in Philadelphia since the early 1970's, beginning with founding Feminist Tours of Philadelphia in 1973. During the late 70's she was a field organizer in Chicago for the National Abortion Rights League (NARAL) and a founder of what became National Women's History Month in 1980.
In Philadelphia she has served on many boards including Women's Way, New Century Trust, Muse Foundation for Women in the Arts, Museum Council of Philadelphia and Delaware Valley, National History Day Philly, and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.
Her work life has included positions at the Philadelphia Area Cultural Consortium, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia History Museum. Moreover, she has consulted on numerous public history projects and served on multiple history advisory committees locally and nationally. In 2019, she curated Game Changers: Pennsylvania Women Who Made History, the first women's history exhibit at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg.
Temple University, PHD, history 1981
University College London, MA, Latin American Studies, 1968
George Washington University, BA, History, 1967

Honors and Awards:
Fulbright Scholarship for dissertation research in Argentina, 1974/75
Social Science Research Council scholarship to attend three-week seminar in Mexico on women's studies in Latin America, 1974
Teaching and Research Assistantships at Temple University, 1972/73,73/74, 75/76
City of Philadelphia Women's History Award, 1987
Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Lifetime Achievement Award for Women's History, 2002
Teaching Experience
Bucks County Community College 1969-1972
Selected Adjunct Teaching
University of Pennsylvania
Rutgers University Camden
Bard College

Monday, May 24 10:30 a.m.?

OUR TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA WITH A FOCUS ON ITS HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

ARLENE DIANE SPECTOR AND LINDA RICHTER

Learn about South Korea, a rich blend of ancient traditions and modern influences, and join us in visiting three diverse cities: (1) Seoul, its capital and largest city of 9.6 million people including the affluent Gangnam district, the center of K-pop music and drama; (2) the historic Buddhist city of Gyeongju, ancient capital for almost a millennium (57 BCE to 935 CE), noted for its large burial mounds that include the royal tombs of kings and queens of the 4 th and 6 th centuries CE; and (3) Busan, South Korea's second largest city of 3.3 million people, noted for its beaches, seafood markets, colorful hillside neighborhoods, and its 14th century Buddhist temple built on cliffs overlooking the seaside.

Linda K. Richter has a B.A. & amp; M.A. from Temple University and a Ph.D. in English Literature from New York University. She taught at George Washington High School in Philadelphia, the City College of New York, and was an Assistant Dean and a Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Arlene Diane Spector received a B.A. in English and French Literatures from Temple University; studied art history at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie in Paris, France; and has an M.A. in Art History from Wellesley College. As a Kress fellow, she spent a summer in Paris working on her thesis on Surrealism in Graphic Arts.

Both Linda and Arlene have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Far East Asia.

<u>Thursday, June 3, 12:30 p.m. Light lunch and learn at our house</u>
JEWS BY CHOICE
RABBI JON CUTLER
The Jewish community today faces a crisis that is easy to name in statistics and harder to face in the heart: declining affiliation, thinning congregations, communities that are aging faster than they are growing, and families drifting from Jewish life without any single dramatic break, simply through the slow erosion of connection and belonging.
In forty years as a rabbi, people who were not Jewish have kept knocking on the door of my synagogue. They learned, converted, and became pillars of the community. This course is about those seekers: Who they are, what brought them through the door, and what Judaism gains when they come.

<u>Monday, June 7 10:30 a.m.</u>
BOOK TALK
JESSICA ENDY