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# Melton

B'nai Torah  
Congregation



**2022-2023 CLASS SCHEDULE**



## WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR OF THE FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL OF ADULT JEWISH LEARNING!

We have another fabulous year of classes being taught by your favorite teachers, Mondays through Thursdays in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. In an effort to serve ALL of our communities we will offer an array of classes via Zoom, In Person Only and Hybrid (both in person and via zoom).

Please note that everyone entering the building for in person classes must be fully vaccinated. Facemasks will not be mandatory.

In this brochure, you will find all of the classes listed by location (in person, on zoom or hybrid), day of the week, start date, time of day, name of the teacher, along with the full description of the class. All Melton classes require advance registration and tuition fees. Cost per class (includes text book): 6-week classes: \$179; 10-week Scholars classes: \$295; 20-week Beyond Borders: \$545; 25-week Ethics of Jewish Living: \$395. Scholarships are available to those that need. To register for classes, visit: [www.meltonschool.org/boca](http://www.meltonschool.org/boca)

Please feel free to contact me at [melton@bnai-torah.org](mailto:melton@bnai-torah.org) with any questions or concerns.

**Penina Bredoff**, *South Palm Beach Melton Director*

*Seek the wisdom within our tradition,  
it's traveled long and far to tell you something.  
Seek because it's in your nature to question.  
It's how your soul attains fulfillment.  
Seek without being sure what you'll find.  
Trust that it will be worth the work you put in.  
Seek and become the change you wish to see.  
The wisdom you acquire will ripple out from you.  
For those who seek a more meaningful Jewish life –  
NEVER STOP SEEKING!*



# MONDAY CLASSES

[BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7, 2022:](#)



## **Leadership Defied and Defended: BeMidbar (Numbers)**

**Mondays, 9:30 - 11 am | 10 weeks | Instructor: Dr. Sandra Lilienthal**

Leadership is a constant theme in the Torah. This course examines the different types of leaders found in the book of BeMidbar, including the famous pair of leaders: Moses and Aaron. Learners will see that while a good leader is a true blessing, having too many leaders results in infighting and dissent. BeMidbar is full of lessons on challenging authority for better and for worse —

lessons just as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago. Let's sift through the sands of time to examine the concepts of "leader," "hero," "rebel" and "community" with fresh eyes. *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*

## **Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab/Israeli Conflict**

**Mondays, 2 - 3:30 pm | 20 weeks | Instructors: Rabbi Dr. Leon Weissberg and Harvey Leven**



Become a mini-Middle East expert in just 20 weeks, as we study the roots of the conflict between Jews and Arabs over the modern State of Israel. Analyzing newspaper articles, speeches, poems, photographs, and maps, we will re-trace history on a path from 1948-today, examining each war and attempt at peace. The material is designed to encourage discussion and debate about religion, culture, politics, economics, identity, and survival, challenging learners to appreciate the basis of the claims made by all sides. Together, we'll leap into these complex topics, probing why a lasting peace between Israel and the Arab world has been

so elusive and what developments might be next. *Class meets in person at B'nai Torah Congregation. Hybrid available.*



## **NEW! Living Wisdom Series: Between the Lines: From Text to Life**

**Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm | 6 weeks | Instructor: Dr. Sandra Lilienthal**

Jewish texts have informed Jewish thought and practice for over 3,000 years. But how do we connect to words written so long ago? What do they reveal today? And how do they inspire action? In this course, we will examine the many ways that we bring the words of our texts

into our daily lives. We'll look at the hints and clues in the letters of sacred Jewish texts: the Torah, the Prophets, the Talmud (no previous Hebrew knowledge required). We'll exam structure and authorship. We'll discuss the commentary of yesterday. We'll share where we stand today. *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*



## Ethics of Jewish Living

Mondays, 7:15 - 8:15 pm | 25 weeks | Instructor: Rabbi David Steinhardt

How do Jewish teachings shed light on contemporary issues such as the environment, interpersonal relationships, end-of-life decisions, and stem-cell research? Ethics of Jewish Living explores the wisdom of ancient and modern rabbis, scholars and thinkers, offering multiple Jewish approaches to conducting our lives in the communal and private spheres. *Class meets in person at B'nai Torah Congregation. Hybrid available.*

### BEGINNING JANUARY 9, 2023:



## NEW! Living Wisdom Series - It's a Date: Marking Time the Jewish Way

Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm | 6 weeks | Instructor: Dr. Sandra Lilienthal

Whether you look forward to the Passover Seder all year or avoid it like the plague, add "It's a Date" to your calendars. Gain new insight into days that mark profound moments in history, and others that mark when to harvest the grain – and pop open the wine. In this unit, we will explore how the Jewish calendar works. We will explain and discuss our holidays – and holiday rituals. We'll share personal and collective memories. *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*

### BEGINNING FEBRUARY 13, 2023:



## NEW! Timeless Tales, Modern Sensibilities: A Deep Look at the Books of Esther & Ruth

Mondays, 9:30 - 11 am | 10 weeks | Instructor: Dr. Sandra Lilienthal

Discover contemporary meaning in timeless texts during this ten-lesson course on the stories in the Scrolls of Esther and Ruth. Explore themes of Jewish identity, gender, God's role in human affairs, and comedy. Delve into the lives of these two heroic women who changed the course of history, leaving a legacy that influences our lives today. *Class format and location TBD.*

### BEGINNING MARCH 13, 2023:

## NEW! Living Wisdom Series- Highs & Lows: Our Community Joys and Sorrows

Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm | 6 weeks | Instructor: Dr. Sandra Lilienthal



Jewish history puts a new twist on the famous opening line "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." How often do we stop and acknowledge the time-honored highs and the lows of our lives as Jews? Are we even aware of them? The Jewish year guides us through our peaks and valleys as a people, our moments of triumph and of tragedy. Together, we look back on the moments that offer a deeper understanding of the Jewish people throughout the millennia – and inspire us in the present. *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*

# TUESDAY CLASSES

[BEGINNING DECEMBER 6, 2022:](#)



Revised: Jewish Medical Ethics: A 21st Century Discussion

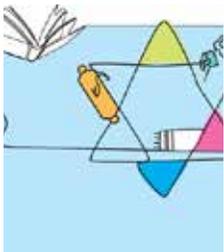
Tuesdays, 2 - 3:30 pm | 10 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschman

Human cloning. Genetic identity. Assisted suicide. Surrogacy. Significant progress – but thorny ethical issues. Modern medical advances can improve and prolong life but also raise dilemmas about its sanctity and dignity – and Judaism has a lot to say about it. This

10-session course explores the positive, negative, beneficial, and detrimental aspects of the new technologies in the medical field and the wisdom Judaism offers us in our encounters with them. The course was designed and written by world-renowned medical ethicist, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD (author of *Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics*). *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*

# WEDNESDAY CLASSES

[BEGINNING NOVEMBER 9, 2022:](#)



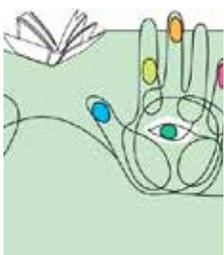
**Living Wisdom Series: Members of the Tribe**

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 am | 6 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

We will dive deep into a fundamental, challenging question: “What is the overarching purpose of living Jewishly?” We’ll discuss the responsibilities, pressures, and misconceptions that come with being called “the Chosen People.” Together, we’ll learn the meanings behind rituals like kashrut, symbols like mezuzah, and why Israel matters so much. A deeper understanding

of “the Tribe” informs and enriches both the nation’s collective actions as well as individual responses to life’s big questions. *Class meets in person ONLY at B’nai Torah Congregation and for NEW students ONLY.*

[BEGINNING JANUARY 11, 2023:](#)



**Living Wisdom Series – OMG! Can you Believe?**

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 am | 6 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

Dive into the BIG questions around God and God’s relationship to Humankind. We’ll examine the many different understandings of God, free will, and mitzvot expressed by Jewish philosophers, rabbis, leaders past and present – and you. We’ll explore the divine, the prophetic, and even the supernatural, as we amplify and dissect your deepest God-questions.

Just do not expect to leave with any final answers. *Class meets in person ONLY at B’nai Torah Congregation and for NEW students ONLY.*

## BEGINNING FEBRUARY 22, 2023:



### **NEW! Living Wisdom Series - Soul's Cycles: A Ride Through the Chapters of Life**

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 am | 6 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

Ready to flex your spiritual muscles? This six-week course will lead you through a focused, high-intensity journey through the Jewish perspective on some of life's milestones: birth, Bar/Bat mitzvah, marriage, divorce, mikvah, conversion – a fascinating ride that will deepen your understanding for when these moments happen to you, your family, or your friends. Crossing the finish line will leave you energized and inspired by the depth and complexity of Jewish values, concerns, expectations, and hopes. *Class meets in person ONLY at B'nai Torah Congregation and for NEW students ONLY.*

## **THURSDAY CLASSES**

### BEGINNING NOVEMBER 10, 2022:



### **NEW! Timeless Tales, Modern Sensibilities: A Deep Look at the Books of Esther & Ruth**

Thursdays, 10:45 am - 12:15 pm | 10 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

Discover contemporary meaning in timeless texts during this ten-lesson course on the stories in the Scrolls of Esther and Ruth. Explore themes of Jewish identity, gender, God's role in human affairs, and comedy. Delve into the lives of these two heroic women who changed the course of history, leaving a legacy that influences our lives today. *Class meets in person at B'nai Torah Congregation. Hybrid available.*

### BEGINNING FEBRUARY 9, 2023:



### **NEW! The Jewish State: Examining the Jewish Identities of the Israeli People**

Thursdays, 10:45 - 12:15 pm | 10 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

The course uncovers the distinct Jewish Israeli identity. Beginning with current reality of Jewish identities in Israel, the course sets out to explore the roots that lay at the foundation of this complex tapestry. The course provides a historic overview of the early Zionist vision, the emergence of the New Jew, and the institutions that shaped the country, providing insights into how Israeli society today reflect the dreams, aspirations, and endeavors of those who settled the Land of Israel. This course then continues with an examination of themes including the evolving religious landscape, the intricate relationship of politics and religion, the interplay of the Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jews, the relationship between Israel and World Jewry, and Jewish Renaissance agents in Israel. *Class meets on Zoom ONLY.*



## **NEW! The Jewish State: Examining the Jewish Identities of the Israeli People**

Thursdays, 12:45 - 2:15 pm | 10 weeks | Instructor: Marion Hirschmann

The course uncovers the distinct Jewish Israeli identity. Beginning with current reality of Jewish identities in Israel, the course sets out to explore the roots that lay at the foundation of this complex tapestry. The course provides a historic overview of the early Zionist vision, the emergence of the New Jew, and the institutions that shaped the country, providing insights into how Israeli society today reflect the dreams, aspirations, and endeavors of those who settled the Land of Israel. This course then continues with an examination of themes including the evolving religious landscape, the intricate relationship of politics and religion, the interplay of the Mizrachi and Ashkenazi Jews, the relationship between Israel and World Jewry, and Jewish Renaissance agents in Israel. *Class meets in person at B'nai Torah Congregation ONLY.*

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