

Adult Education 2006-2007

The Adult Education Committee had a remarkable number of offerings over the past year, to satisfy both the beginner in Jewish Studies and those with a desire for more intensive study. Among the highlights:

1. The Me'ah Graduate Institute had course offerings for advanced students in American Jewish History and Medieval Sephardic Culture. We also were part of a Me'ah Collaborative Program with the other synagogues in our community. This program attracted nearly 30 students and we were happy to host it here at TJC.
2. The Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program, a two-year course of study, met throughout the year and was taught by Rabbi Tucker and Nancy Lewis in the first year, and will be taught by Rabbi Feldman and Cantor Simon in the second year.
3. Rabbi Tucker led Bible BaBoker on Shabbat mornings before services and Journey through Shabbat Morning every second Shabbat for an informal study experience.
4. In the fall, as part of a Torah on Thursdays series, Rabbi Feldman offered a three-part course, "The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning"; Rabbi Tucker offered a course, "To Believe or Not to Believe: A Jewish Look at God." In the spring, Rabbi Feldman offered a three-part course on "Understanding Kashrut"; Rabbi Tucker taught a three-part course on "Thinking about Theodicy (God and the Problem of Evil).
5. In the fall, Rabbi Silverman offered a five-part course on great Jewish religious philosophers, called "Meet and Greet our Modern Greats". On Shabbat afternoons, throughout the year, he offered his popular course "Talmud in the Afternoon."
6. Throughout the year, Edna Noiman taught two classes, one for beginners and one for advanced students, called "Hebrew on Sundays." Larry Epstein offered a Hebrew crash course in both the fall and the spring.
7. In the spring, Rabbi Feldman led a three-session course on "Blessings of a Skinned Knee" based on the award-winning book by Wendy Mogel.
8. In the fall, Rabbi Melissa Weintraub gave a Shabbat afternoon talk on Human Rights through the perspective of Jewish texts.
9. Throughout the year, the Jess Epstein Lunch-and-Learn series brought us a

number of dynamic speakers, from former Chief Justice Deborah Poritz to Linda Meisel, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Children Services. We thank David Atkin for his many years of work on this wonderful program.

10. In the fall, Cantor Simon offered a five-part course entitled "Learn to Leyn." In January, Cantor Simon hosted a world premiere showing of his wonderful new DVD on "Great Cantors of the Golden Age".

11. The Jewish Center hosted two sessions of the Jewish Dialogue Group which fosters constructive dialogue on important issues like the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

12. In February, Rabbi Justus Baird taught a three-part series on "Exploring Jewish Bioethics."

13. In March, close to sixty people heard synagogue member and Princeton professor Esther Schor speak about her new book on Emma Lazarus, winner of the National Jewish Book Award in Jewish Studies.

14. Our Ellen M. Egger Shabbaton was a highlight of the year when we welcomed Rabbi Eliezer Diamond to speak to us about spirituality in our lives. His presentations on Friday Night, Shabbat Afternoon and Sunday morning were all well received.

15. In the spring, Rebekah Costin taught a wonderful class for the congregation entitled "Genres and Themes in Biblical Literature".