

Explore Judaism this Summer in New York City!

The **JEWISH FLAME**, an organization dedicated to the exploration of Judaism, is proud to announce its exciting summer Jewish Institute for 2009. Classes meet weeknights (EDT) from June 22 – August 6. Read further in this brochure for details on each course. Courses run from 6 PM each evening until 7:15 PM, and from 7:15 PM until 8:30 PM (except where otherwise noted.) The only cost is a registration fee of \$18, which we return to you if you come to half the classes. To register, simply: [Click here to register.](#)

We hope that we see (or hear) you in one of this summer's classes.

Whether you'd like to learn Bible, Talmud, Happiness, or a Jewish View of the Financial Crisis, there will be a class just right for you. And the teachers will be the best the Flame has to offer. We will touch your heart by inspiring your head because we understand that everyone is special and no one answer fits everyone.

Check out our website: www.jewishflame.org or call 7818-268-2448.



Hurry! Classes Begin on June 22, 2009. Space is limited – you can reserve your space by visiting www.jewishflame.org/Response.htm After registering, we will provide you information about how to setup your computer to see and hear the classes.

The Jewish Flame continues to offer a free, no-strings-attached opportunity to explore our unique heritage. The Flame is composed of individuals who are deeply concerned with Judaism and who care about other Jews; people who feel comfortable asking questions and exploring their Jewish identity.

The Flame offers an opportunity to discover Judaism through our unique activities: dynamic lectures, stimulating classes and weekends with other participants from throughout New York City and beyond. The Flame also offers an opportunity to meet other Jews.

COURSE SUMMARIES

Happiness – A Serious Problem

Overcoming obstacles to happiness and acquiring tools for happiness and fulfillment.



The Financial Crisis – A Jewish View

How Judaism tells us to cope and personally grow in tough times.

The Prophets

Explore Prophecy, the Messiah, Jewish survival, and more as we meet Elijah, Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible.

Hebrew

Opportunities to both learn how to read and to pick up a working vocabulary in modern Hebrew.

Jewish Ethics

A discussion of Jewish morality and ethics as found in Jewish ethical texts.



Basic Talmud

How to understand this compendium of Jewish thought, practice and narrative.



Challenges in the Bible

Understanding the most challenging stories in the Bible.

Why the Commandments?

Why do we need to do the commandments? Isn't it enough to be a good person?

Jewish Philosophy

Understanding the great issues of Jewish Philosophy

Jewish Wisdom

Spiritual growth through the ethical, personal, spiritual and practical wisdom in Jewish works.



Who's Who in the Bible

Learn about some of the individuals who shaped Judaism and the world for generations to come.



WE CAN COME TO YOU

Want a Flame class, Flame speaker (as a scholar-in-residence or a one-time speech) or Flame Chapter in your community? Contact us at jewishflame@earthlink.net. We can even get you a free, private teacher over the phone.

2009 JEWISH FLAME SUMMER PROGRAM – CLASS DETAILS

Classes are held Mondays thru Thursdays, June 22 – Aug. 6.

Physical class location: Congregation Adereth El, 135 E. 29th Street at Lexington Ave, New York, NY

JEWISH ETHICS (Pirkei Avot)

Mondays at 6 PM

Jewish Ethics has never been expressed in a more eloquent way than in the Ethics of the Fathers, a classic work which is part of the Talmud. The book conveys some of Judaism's eternal ideas and values, and the truths of ethics and morality that have served as the bedrock of Judaism. The course will delve into Jewish Ethics, using the Ethics of the Fathers as the springboard for a discussion of ethics and morality.

Instructor: Michael Poulad

CHALLENGES IN THE BIBLE

Mondays at 6 PM

How naïve was Isaac in blessing Esau? Was Joseph as bad as the brothers said? Why did God mix up the builders of the Tower of Babel with different languages? And, lastly, why was Abraham ready to sacrifice his son? Instructor: Joseph Rackman

HEBREW

Mondays at 7:15 PM

Do you want to feel more comfortable in Israel? Do you want to better understand a Jewish Prayer Book or Bible? This is an opportunity for beginners in the Hebrew language to both learn how to read and to pick up a working vocabulary in modern Hebrew. The course attempts to enable the student to solidify a foundation in Hebrew, which can be broadened upon in future courses. Instructor: David Labovitz

WHY THE MITZVOT (COMMANDMENTS)

Tuesdays at 6 PM

Judaism classically has 613 commandments. Why do we need to do so many commandments? Isn't it enough just to be a good person? What do the commandments do for us? Why are there so many details associated with these commandments? A frank discussion of the commandments and their meaning.

Instructor: Hillel Newerstein

BASIC TALMUD

Tuesdays at 6 PM

An introduction to the Talmud, the great compendium of Jewish law, ethics, philosophy and morality. The class will help acquaint students with both the content and format of the Talmud. Students will sample selections of Jewish thought, Biblical interpretation, legal discussions and more. By the end of the course, students should have gained a greater appreciation for the Talmud, and the foundation for further study.

Instructor: Rabbi Bob Garber

HAPPINESS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM

The course focuses on overcoming obstacles to happiness and acquiring tools to work on being happy and attaining personal fulfillment. Issues to be explored include why people are unhappy and the Torah way of attaining happiness. The course will draw on the book *Gateway to Happiness* by Rabbi Z. Pliskin and *Happiness is a Serious Problem* by Dennis Prager. Instructor: Susie Garber

WHO'S WHO IN THE BIBLE

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM

The Bible is sprinkled with certain key individuals, men and women, who arrive on the scene at crucial times, and through their actions and personality reshape Judaism and Jewish life for generations to come. This class will focus on these individuals and attempt to understand their times and what made them great. Each class will feature one specific individual, and will discuss the issues of the times in which he or she lived and how each made a difference. Instructor: Rabbi Bob Garber

THE PROPHETS

Wednesdays at 6 PM

How will we know when the Messiah comes? What will life be like then? What really matters to G-d? Why was our Temple destroyed and when will it be rebuilt? All these critical questions are answered in the prophetic books. Who were these men and women and what lessons did they teach for our lives? Come and learn as the characters of Elijah, , Isaiah, Hosea and others come alive again. Instructor: Rabbi Mat Hoffman

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS – A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

Wednesdays at 7 PM

Face it - these are tough financial times. What does Judaism tell us about how to cope? What can we do personally to grow from these times? And, while we are giving advice, what does Judaism teach about the credit crisis and how the government should respond? The article in the Wall Street Journal which purported to give Jewish answers was superficial. Here, we will see a range of answers-personal and governmental of much greater depth. Instructor: Rabbi Mat Hoffman

JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Thursdays at 6 PM

Understanding the great issues of Jewish Philosophy, such as free will, existence of evil, and existentialism, as discussed by the greatest personalities in Jewish thought: Saadia Gaon, Yehuda HaLevi, Maimonides, Luzzato, Rav Kook, and more. Instructor: Rabbi Meir Leibowitz

JEWISH WISDOM

Thursdays at 7:15 PM

A survey of the ethical, personal, spiritual and practical thought from the great Jewish sages and Jewish works over the centuries. The class will discuss how great Jewish writings have imbued the world with the answers to the ethical dilemmas that we regularly face. Instructor: Rabbi Bob Garber

INSTRUCTORS

Rabbi Bob Garber runs the Beginner's Minyan at the Jewish Heritage Center in Queens, and is working on a masters degree in Jewish History at Yeshiva University. He received a law degree from Columbia University and is currently the head of technology for a computer software business. He has been studying the Talmud on a daily basis for over 25 years and teaches the Flame's ongoing Parshat HaShavua class on virtuallyeshiva.com.

Susie Garber has a masters degree in education from Yeshiva University, and also studied at Michlelet Bruria in Jerusalem. She is the author of "Denver Dreams", a Jewish novel, a book on teaching writing (Scholastic), and has been published in many educational periodicals. She currently teaches and consults in Jewish schools throughout the tri-state area and runs a seminar for Jewish educators.

Rabbi Mat Hoffman received his first rabbinical ordination in 1988, received Yoreh, Yoreh thereafter and is studying for an advanced rabbinic degree. His rabbinic work has been featured in the New York Times, the Gannett newspapers and the Jewish Week. Rabbi Mat has appeared on CBS-TV and on the Maury Povich Show. He has been selected as a Super Lawyer in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 indicating that he is in the top 5% of his profession. Rabbi Mat has a psychology degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Columbia University and has been published in the United States, Europe and Japan. He has run the Flame's Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur Services since 1991.

Rabbi Meir Leibowitz received rabbinical ordination from Yeshiva University, and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Jewish Education. He has studied extensively in Jewish History, and currently teaches in Jewish schools in Queens.

Hillel Newerstein teaches Bible and Talmud at Yeshiva Kesser Torah in Queens. He has a Masters Degree in counseling at Queens College. He previously studied at yeshivas in Israel and at Yeshiva Kesser Torah.

Michael Poulad has a BA in Judaic Studies at Queens College, and has studied at yeshivas in Jerusalem and New York. He is actively involved in Jewish music and Jewish spirituality.

Joseph R. Rackman is a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. and has published in numerous Jewish periodicals including Moment, New York Jewish Week, Tradition, Sh'ma, Jewish Review, Jewish Action and Midstream.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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