

Rabbi Jonah Layman's classes

❖ **Weekly Torah Class** - Fridays 9:30am-10:30am - Bresler House –**next class Oct 16**

The Torah serves as the foundation for all aspects of Jewish practice and belief. In this class we study the medieval commentaries on the Torah. Though they lived 1,000 years ago their psychological and religious insights are just as relevant and provocative today.

❖ **Weekly Talmud Class** - Sundays 11am-Noon - home of Barbara Fink – **next class Oct 18**

Judaism as we know it today was developed by the rabbis over 1,500 years. Most of their thoughts and interpretations are found in the 20-volume work known as the Babylonian Talmud. Much of the Talmud focuses on social behavior and we will continue our study of the laws of deposits. Though it may sound esoteric, it resonates with business and neighborly practice today.



❖ **Mitzvah Initiative** The Mitzvah Initiative

The Mitzvah Initiative is a facilitated dialogue, reflection, and study about the concept and practice of mitzvah in the lives of Conservative Jews today. On selected Shabbatot during the year, Rabbi Layman will discuss a Mitzvah--the unique Jewish expression of daily responsibility, obligation and inspiration which connects people to their families and communities--as well as the dynamic process of Mitzvot, a way for Jews to infuse their lives with ongoing energy, creativity and holiness.

Shaare Tefila Congregation is one of over forty Conservative congregations participating in the Mitzvah Initiative, which is a project of Dr. Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in partnership with the Rabbinical Assembly.

Wednesday Night: Adult Ed Night!

7:30pm (or 8pm) - 8:30pm (or 9pm) - Home of Adriana & Alan Sandler

❖ **Jewish Health Issues**, October 21-November 18

With health care reform all the buzz it prompts us to consider some medical and health issues from a Jewish perspective. This will not be a class about proposed health care legislation but rather an examination of such bio-medical issues as Stem Cell Research; Living Wills, etc.

❖ **An Encounter with Zionism**, December 2-23

How do we feel about the State of Israel? What is the level of our connection to our Jewish homeland? Over the course of these 4 weeks we will explore the thought of 4 major Zionist thinkers and understand what Zionism is. Through their words we can develop (or not!) our own Zionist identity.

❖ **The Ten Commandments**, February 24 - March 24

Many see the 10 Commandments as the basis for Jewish legal practice. Is that so? How have the commandments been interpreted and how many of the 613 are based on them? We'll look at two a week and see how they have been interpreted and expanded over the centuries.

An Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah class is forming this fall.

Contact Rabbi Layman - rjlayman@shaaretefila.org - or Cantor Fried - cwfried@shaaretefila.org -
for more information about this exciting learning opportunity!

The Big Read

Discussions about a pre-selected topic during Shabbat Services. **Facilitated by Rabbi Layman.**

Background articles about the topic will be posted on the Shaare Tefila website, Listserv and will be available at Shabbat Services three weeks before the Big Read date.

- **Shabbat, September 26** – *Collective Sin; Teshuva;*
- **Shabbat, January 23** - “*I am Jewish*” *Personal Reflections*, based on the book: “I am Jewish, Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl”

Scholar in Residence ~ December 5, 2009

jews and shoes

DR. EDNA NAHSHON

A surprisingly rich presentation about the practical and symbolic significance of shoes in Jewish culture since antiquity. Who knew?

2009 Scholar in Residence, Shabbat December 5

Dr. Edna Nahshon, Associate professor of Hebrew
at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Presentation during Services; Q & A following kiddush



**Registration for the Wednesday classes requested.
Please email Adriana Sandler Sandleraa@gmail.com
or call the office.**