

West End Synagogue
Adult Education
2022

January 26, 2022, 7:30 pm. Daniel Van Doren presents, ***"A Dramatic Reading Aloud of Jewish Short, Short Stories."***

February 10, 2022, 7:30 pm, Aryeh Gold, David Prager and Moshe Sayer, along with an Israeli representative of the current Kibbutz movement, will analyze, ***"The Kibbutz, As it Was and As it Is Today."*** Sponsored jointly with the Israeli Connections Committee.

February 23, 2022, 7:30 pm, Professor Robert Pollack. Join us for an evening of, ***"Jewish Journeys,"*** moderated by Professor Pollack: Three members of West End Synagogue, Rabbi Emily Cohen, Ms. Sharon Jack and Dr. Mayris Webber, will tell their own stories of how their current self-identification as being Jewish, differs from the details of their ancestry, and in some cases their upbringing as well. Their presentations will be followed by an open discussion on the differences between Jewish ancestry and Jewish identity.

March 10, 24 and 31, 2022, 7:30 pm, Susan Schorr will explore ***"Voice of a Woman."*** Women have been writing prayers for centuries, even though their voices are not heard in the Siddur. We'll read and discuss woman-written prayers, on familiar and unusual topics.

March 28, 2022, 7:30 pm. David Webber, Professor of Law at Boston University, author of, "The Rise of the Working Class Shareholder," will speak on, ***"Mixing Politics and Investments: Kosher or Treif?"*** Webber presents the challenge of putting your money where your values are.

March 30, 2022, 7:30 pm. Bonnie Rabin, Amy Saltzman, Irit Tau-Webber, each a Family Law lawyer, with Fran Hoffinger as Moderator, will discuss, ***"Evolving Family Law,"*** a topic relevant to both gay and traditional families.

April 11, 2022, 7:30 pm. Jerry Posman, Vice President for Administration and Finance, at the City University, will discuss, ***"The City University: As it Was Then, As it Is Now."***

April 27, 2022, 7:30 pm. Tris Farnsworth, ***"Stalin, Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Bolsheviks."*** Among the seven major figures, makers of Russia's Bolshevik Revolution in October 1917, four were Jewish. What drew them to Bolshevism? Was their history unique in Stalin's Soviet Union?

May 2, May 9, 2022, 7:30 pm. Art Spar, ***"Shirat ha Yam, "Song of the Sea."*** A poem from Exodus; a grim description of the death of the Egyptians at the Red Sea. God is a brutal and victorious warrior. ***What happened to the God of Peace and Justice?*** Let's unpack and explore this puzzling warlike description of God.

May 12, May 26, June 9, 2022, 7:30 pm. Susan Schorr will examine ***"The Metaphor for Our Lives."*** The metaphors we use are not just figures of speech; they help to define how we experience our lives. We'll look at how the metaphors we use dictate our interactions and, sometimes, how they limit us.

May 23, 25, and June 13, 2022, 7:30 pm. Professor Emeritus Irwin Wall will explore, ***"The Jewish Community in England, France and Germany."*** The Jews of France, England and Germany together constitute one million of the roughly 15 million Jews in the world: 500,000 in France – 300,000 in England, and 200,000 in Germany. Each, powerful and influential in their own lands, plays increasingly important roles in the affairs of world Jewry, both Israel and the Diaspora, to the welfare of which they are all three committed.

The minicourse will examine these communities in three aspects: first, how they have internally, all three, been transformed since the Second World War. French Jewry has doubled in size and is today largely Sephardic; British Jewry was plunged from its almost charmed and idyllic past into the vortex of Zionism and the Center of the politics of Israel's creation, and the German community, once the most prestigious community of the Diaspora, having been dispersed and virtually destroyed, has been reconstituted from a tiny postwar almost invisible remnant into an entirely different version of its former self.

Second, what is the quality of Jewish life in all three? How has their traditional Orthodoxy been challenged by the growing appeal of Liberal or Reform Judaism on the one hand and the rise of Hassidim and Haredim on the other. And how are they buffeted by the powerful winds of secularization and assimilationism which seem to threaten the prospects of their long-term viability? Finally, all three, which have integrated the new reality of Israel into their own existence and identity, find themselves in the throes of an existential struggle against the new anti-Semitism.

June 18, June 25, 2022, 1:30 pm after Kiddush. Connie Goldfarb, ***"Art as Midrash."*** A study of Medieval Art as anti-Semitic Midrash; as well as three biblical and talmudic scenes as Midrash.

June 21, 2022, 7:30 pm. Daniel Van Doren, ***"A Dramatic Reading Aloud of Jewish Short, Short Stories"***. Cast of readers to be announced!

Note Please: If these events are in person, in our synagogue, they will start at 7:00 pm. If they are on Zoom, they will begin at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise indicated.

