

# 2016 Kallah for the Inquisitive course descriptions

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Siporei HaYom: A Treasury of Contemporary Jewish Stories / Taught by Rabbis Ken Alter & Rachel Safman**

Where would Jews be without our stories? Even as the Jews were journeying through the desert they were asking themselves "How are we ever going to share this experience with our children?" We have long relied on stories as a tool for transmitting our values, perpetuating our culture and defining our sense of who we are. In this class we will be exploring some more modern Jewish stories dealing with topics as diverse as: life in the shtetl, resettling in America, reaching towards God and building a Jewish state.

**Let's Get Serious About Esther / Taught by Rabbis Jeremy Schwartz & Julius Rabinowitz**

For those of you who thought of the Book of Esther as a story about parties, Haman and noise, beauty contests, more parties, hangings, and even more parties, we've got news for you: It is!

It's also about much more, including human power, identity, Jewishness, Goyishness, genocide, God and God's ab-

sence. Come join us as we explore these and other themes and take the silliness of Esther, Mordechai, and the gang as seriously as they deserve!

**What Picture Do You Want to Leave? / Taught by Rabbi Scott Saulson**

A 4-session workshop devoted to exploring an internal snapshot that can speak volumes to you and your loved ones about your acquired values and wisdom.

This workshop is devoted to a dynamic understanding of ethical wills, also known as a spiritual legacies. Ethical wills flourished in usage and style in medieval Jewish communities. They sought to convey from one generation to the next behaviors and outlooks which ground one's character for the good. As such, ethical wills are in keeping with all traditions and cultures. Participants will be test several techniques employed to ascertain and clarify meaningful ethical will content.

**Zionism: The various streams and how they flowed and are still flowing / Taught by Daniel Robinson & Jerry Fischer**

What were the pre-cursors to modern Zionism? How did Herzl come into the picture? What was Socialist and Revisionist Zionism? Cultural Zionism? How did the orthodox Jews of Europe react to Zionism? What is religious-nationalist Zionism? Who were the great American Zionists? What is post-Zionism? What is the future of Zionism?

**Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths and Mysteries of Judaism / Taught by Rabbi Avrohom Sternberg**

Does Judaism believe in guardian angels? Why do Jews use matchmakers? Who wrote the handwriting on the wall? A fun course in Jewish cultural literacy, full of surprising facts, myths, and mysteries surrounding Jewish tradition and practice. Each week a different topic will be covered.

**Know Something About the Bible?**

Is "an eye for an eye" meant to be taken literally? Was the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge an apple? Did the Jews actually cross the Red Sea? We leap beyond a Hebrew School comprehension of the Bible, as we explore the deeper significance of its stories and their profound lessons for life.

**From Womb to Tomb**

Why celebrate a bar or bat mitzvah? What's with breaking glass under the wedding canopy? Peppered with astounding insights along the way, we'll journey from birth through burial, infusing meaning and relevance into the customs and traditions of the Jewish life cycle.

**Angels, Blessings, and Evil Eyes**

What is the evil eye? How does it work? Are we accompanied by guardian angels? Do they have wings? Join us as we enter the hidden world of the occult and investigate the fascinating interaction between matter and spirit.

**Myths, Misconceptions, and Urban Legends**

Sometimes the truth can be stranger than fiction. Do Jews believe in Satan? Can a Jew convert out of the faith? Peering into a world of untold mystery, we'll explore common Jewish myths rooted in non-Jewish beliefs, everything from the bizarre to the downright outrageous.

## 2016 KALLAH FOR THE INQUISITIVE

Sponsored by Jewish Federation • Ahavath Achim • Ahavath Chesed • Beth El • Beth Jacob • Bnai Israel • B'nai Shalom  
Brothers of Joseph • Emanu-El



### Schedule

**Week 1 SUNDAY, JAN. 10 • 2:00-4:00 pm**

Walk-in registration 1:30-2:00 pm

**Week 2 SUNDAY, JAN. 17 • 2:00-4:00 pm**

**Week 3 SUNDAY, JAN. 24 • 2:00-4:00 pm**

Weeks 1-3 consist of a 1-hour Enrichment course from 2-3 pm; a snack break, and at 3:15 the Community Forum where everyone comes together to hear a special guest speaker until 4:15 pm.

**Week 4 SUNDAY, JAN. 31 • 2:00-4:30 pm**

This final session, Week 4, consists of the 1-hour Enrichment course from 2-3 pm, and concludes with a Seudat Siyum – closing meal at 3:00 pm.

**Location** - All sessions will be held at Temple Emanu-El, 29 Dayton Road, Waterford

### Enrichment Courses (1<sup>st</sup> hour)

**Siporei HaYom: A Treasury of Contemporary Jewish Stories**  
Taught by Rabbis Alter and Safman

**Let's Get Serious About Esther**  
Taught by Rabbis Jeremy Schwartz & Julius Rabinowitz

### What Picture Do You Want to Leave?

A 4-session workshop devoted to exploring an internal snapshot that can speak volumes to you and your loved ones about your acquired values and wisdom.  
Taught by Rabbi Scott Saulson

**Zionism: The various streams and how they flowed and are still flowing**  
Taught by Daniel Robinson and Jerry Fischer

**Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths and Mysteries of Judaism**  
Taught by Rabbi Avrohom Sternberg

### Community Forums (2<sup>nd</sup> hour)

Community Forums bring everyone together to hear a guest speaker. Topics for the 2016 Community Forums include:

**Week 1:** How will your family choose when you cannot choose for yourself...  
Facilitated by Matthew Schulman

**Week 2:** What about Me – What about Us? Tiptoeing through the Mine fields of Care  
Facilitated by Rabbi Scott Saulson

**Week 3:** Important Financial, Accounting and Legal Steps You need to take to have in place as you get older...  
Facilitated by Alan Lyons, CPA  
Ed Lorah Associates

### How to Register

**1st hour – Sign up for ONE Enrichment course for 4 weeks**

During the four weeks of the Institute, you will attend the four sessions of the Enrichment Course you selected. (You may switch to another Enrichment Course after the first week if space permits.) Following a 15-minute break after class, we will gather for a Community Forum and listen to different guest speakers.

On January 31 the afternoon begins at 2:00 pm with your hour one course. The afternoon will conclude with a Seudat Siyum, a festive meal, beginning at 3:00 pm.

**The fee for the ENTIRE Institute, which includes the concluding meal, is \$20 pp.**

**To attend one or more Community Forums, the fee is \$5 per Forum.**

Make checks payable to JFEC. Return by **Thursday, January 7** to address on registration tear-off. For those unable to register ahead of time, there will be on-site registration at 1:30 pm prior to classes on Jan. 10. Contact the Federation with questions: 860-442-8062 or office.jfec@gmail.com.

Clip and return registration form today!

### Registration Form – Please print clearly!

The fee for the entire Kallah which includes the concluding meal, is \$20 pp.

Make check payable to 'JFEC' and mail to JFEC, 28 Channing St., New London, CT 06320.

Registration form must be received by Thurs., Jan. 7. Otherwise, register at 1:30 on Jan. 10 at Emanu-El prior to the first class.

Participant 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We need above information in order to contact you if inclement weather forces cancellation of a weekly session.

Please check only one:

\_\_\_ Jewish Stores: Alter/Safman \_\_\_ Zionism: Robinson/Fischer  
\_\_\_ Esther: Schwartz/Rabinowitz \_\_\_ Judaism: Sternberg  
\_\_\_ Picture: Saulson

Participant 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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### COMMUNITY FORUMS

Please check form to the left for the forums that will be offered during Weeks 1, 2, and 3. To attend just the forum/s, there is no need to register but there is a charge of \$5 per forum which can be paid at the door.

**Keep this page for a reference and bring to register in person on Sunday, January 10 beginning at 1:30 PM.**