



Temple Beth Israel Center for Jewish Life

Fall 2020

*Feed your
mind & soul*

Getting Religion Right in a Time of Crisis: New Books by Sister Helen Prejean and Rabbi Michael Lerner

Sister Helen Prejean, Wednesday, October 14, 7:00pm

Rabbi Michael Lerner, Wednesday, October 21, 7:00pm

Sister Helen, author of *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey* (Random House, 2019) and Rabbi Lerner, author of *Revolutionary Love: A Political Manifesto to Heal and Transform the World* (University of California Press, 2019), will discuss their recent books.

We are living in a time of profound crisis. The term “crisis,” a Latinized form of the Greek word *krisis*, means a turning point in a disease. The disease could get better or it could get much worse. The etymology of the word “crisis” is particularly relevant at this time, when the current crisis is quite literally a pivotal moment in our response to a disease, namely the COVID-19 pandemic. How has COVID-19, and our responses to it, revealed the injustices endemic to our culture? How can we turn things around? And what role does religion play in confronting this crisis?



Sponsored by: The Global Justice Program; the School of Journalism and Communication; the College of Arts and Sciences; the Oregon Humanities Center; the Department of English; the Department of Comparative Literature; the Clark Honors College; the Prison Education Program; the UNESCO Chair in Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace; and the University of Oregon-UNESCO Crossings Institute, First Christian Church & Temple Beth Israel

Sukkot Seed Prayer & Study *w/Ana Maurine Lara and Rabbi Ruhi Sophia*

Thursday, October 8, 9:00am, via Zoom (link will be in weekly e-news)

This past July, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities across the American continent (North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and Hawai'i) participated in a Seed Prayer, ceremonies for seeds to continue existing for the next seven generations.



In Indigenous communities, seeds are life itself. They hold the life force of the Earth and enable us, as humans (human seeds), to continue our life on this planet. These ceremonies took place during a time of unprecedented ecological disaster that has destroyed and harmed plant life, animal life, and human life at the highest rates in Earth's history, during a global pandemic, as we face a rise in racist, anti-Semitic, and xenophobic violence. For these reasons, these ceremonies brought hundreds of people together (virtually) to pray for our seeds.

In June 2020, Ana-Maurine Lara approached Rabbi Ruhi Sophia about the possibility of TBI's community participation in the Seed Prayer. The conversation engendered a discussion of what seed and prayer are within Judaism, and the suggestion of a Sukkot Seed Prayer & Study emerged. Join Rabbi Ruhi Sophia and Ana for a study on a midrash about the relationship between seeds, multiple generations, exile, and renewal.

Global Day of Jewish Learning (theglobalday.org)

Sunday, November 8, via Zoom and YouTube

Launched in 2009 as an effort to connect Jews around the world in mutual appreciation of Jewish wisdom, the Global Day was inspired by the vision and leadership of Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz (z'l). This year's theme is Human Dignity. In addition to the many online offerings from Limmud, TBI is offering the following:



2:00pm: Join Rabbi Ruhi along with other Pacific Northwest Reconstructionist Rabbis on this Sunday after the election for a conversation about Jewish texts and Human Dignity. Details to follow.

We're looking for submissions of original artistic responses to the theme. Please send a short video in landscape orientation (5 minutes max) or photo(s) of your piece. Some ideas to inspire you: Record yourself reciting an original poem or song. Take photos of your artwork. Create a dance piece and record it. Make a slide show of your photographs.

If you need technical assistance, contact Jody at jody@tbieugene.org. We will do our best to assist you. All submissions must be received by October 28th for inclusion. Please email them to Jody. We'll be showing them on YouTube starting on November 8th. The video will remain on the TBI channel for viewing at your leisure.

A Taste of Torah

Check out these cooking demos related to the Torah portion and the holidays. They'll be on Zoom and/or the TBI YouTube channel for viewing at your leisure. Recipes and ingredient lists will be provided beforehand.

Parshat Toldot: Birthright Soup

Learn how to make three easy lentil soups!

Sunday, November 15, 2:00pm: Soup #1 with Rabbi Ruhi Sophia

Tuesday, November 17, Noon: Soup #2 with Nina Korican

Wednesday, November 18, 3:30pm: Soup #3 with Jody Kirtner



Chanukah: Sublime Sufganiot with Tracy Tessler

Date TBA

You've tasted them at the Chanukah Celebration or have fond memories of eating them in Israel. Now you can learn to make your own fried dough goodies just in time for Chanukah. Details to follow.



If you have a recipe you'd like to share in an upcoming demo, please contact Nina in the office.

Ongoing

Torah Study w/Rabbi Ruhi Sophia

Thursdays @ Noon, via Zoom

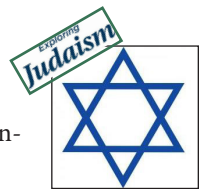
Join Rabbi Ruhi Sophia this week as she leads an engaging and interesting discussion of the weekly Torah portion.



Exploring Judaism

3rd Sunday of the month (starting in November), 3:00pm

Join the group for a monthly discussion with the Rabbi and non-Jews, new-Jews and any-Jews interested in exploration. All are welcome, but this is an especially good opportunity for people new to Judaism in general and TBI in particular to learn more and get to know fellow explorers in a welcoming, casual setting. Questions? Contact Mark Watson (mrwatson44@comcast.net).



The Vinkl (Yiddish Corner)

Two Mondays each month (check calendar)

2:00-3:30pm

Yiddish, or mama-loshn, is one of several languages with which we Jews are blessed. Known for warmth and wit, it may evoke memories for you, or perhaps be the gate to new knowledge and pleasures. New learners encouraged.



Temple Beth Israel

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*Interested in joining the
Community Education
Committee, or have
ideas for teaching
or a class offering?
Contact Nina Korican,
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541.485.7218 x104.*

Fall 2020 Program Guide