

# Adult Education Classes 2009-2010

Following are the education classes for adults that Rabbi Gendra will be offering on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning in September, 2009:

Series 1:

## Preparing for the High Holidays: Using Hassidic Sources

September 3, 10 and 17

Series 2:

## Hassidic Teachings

Through some of the movement's early texts that we will read in this series, we will try to understand issues such as Hassidic prayer and Torah study, mystical leadership, worship through materiality, mystical union, and custom. These will include texts written by students of the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid of Mezheritch, Ya'aqov Yosef of Polonoye, and from their students, including Menahem Mendel of Vitebsk, Levi Yizhaq of Berditchev, Menahem Nahum of Chernobyl, Elimelekh of Lizhensk and Shneur Zalman of Liadi. We will conclude with teachings of R. Nahman of Brazlav and 'the Ishbizer', R. Mordekhai Yosef Leiner.

October 22	The Baal Shem Tov
October 29	Jacob Joseph Katz of Pulnoyye
November 5	Nachman of Bratslav
November 12	Elimelech of Lisenzk
November 19	Levi Yitchak of Berdichev
December 3	Shneur Zalman of Liady
December 10	Menahem Mendel of Kotzk
January 7	Mordechai Joseph Leine of Izbica

Series 3:

## Introduction to Reconstructionism

This series of classes is designed to launch us into a lifelong engagement with the evolving ideology and theology of the Reconstructionist tradition through an exploration of a series of questions. It will introduce us to the major questions of contemporary Jewish thought through four levels of investigation. (a) The question itself as discussed in the world of religious studies/Jewish studies (b) The question as Kaplan understood it in the context of American religious history, Jewish history and religious studies and his own responses to it (c) The question as Reconstructionists and fellow travelers have added to thinking on it over the years since Kaplan wrote (d) The question as understood by each of us in the class as of today (a work in progress!)

February 11	Introduction: Touching Base. Where am I in this story?
February 18	What is the nature of the challenge to traditional Judaism?
March 4	How do we define/talk about/understand God?
March 11	How do we make sense of evil?
March 18	What can prayer mean?
March 25	What can personal halacha/mitzvot mean? What do we do about communal norms and standards in the absence of authority?
April 8	What is the relationship between religion and self realization / therapy / emotional healing?
April 15	What/who are the Jews after emancipation? How do we relate to the multi-faith conversation?
April 22	How do we define / redefine Zionism and our connection to the Land of Israel? What is the relation of Jews to America and its "civil religion"?
April 29	What do we do with the idea of Jews as the "chosen people"? How does being Jewish relate to universal goals of social justice and peace?



These classes are open to the community.

A \$25 donation for each class is suggested for non-members.

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Learning is a  
lifelong process