



“THE
COMMANDMENT
IS A LAMP, THE
TORAH A LIGHT.”

—PROVERBS 6:23

JEWISH
LEARNING
GUIDE
2018-19/5779





A NOTE FROM OUR CLERGY TEAM

Jewish learning is an open conversation — an encounter between us, a community of fellow learners, and an idea from our tradition. The goal isn't just to passively accept information, but to dive into a process of disagreement, questioning, and meaning-making, each of us striving to better understand not only the sources we're studying, but also ourselves. At its best, Jewish learning can open us up to new sources of wisdom and depth in our lives, emerging from the text of the written Torah, the Torah of our community, and the undiscovered Torah within our hearts.

In this guide, you'll discover a number of pathways for learning, all of which can help spark your intellectual and spiritual curiosity. Whether you're looking to study traditional commentaries, practice new mindfulness techniques, brush up on your Hebrew skills, or just get together and sing, there's something for everybody! Especially new this year is Dinner Drinks & Drash, a series of stand-alone conversations, open to the public, featuring our Rabbis and various guest teachers from across town. These offerings would not be possible without the help and wisdom of the many teachers of Torah in our community, both clergy and lay leaders. They would also not be possible without your support and attendance!

We hope you'll find, as the book of Proverbs asserts, that the Torah is a light for you in the darkness, enlightening you on your Jewish journey, wherever it may take you. May the new year ahead be filled with the unique joy that only comes from learning Torah together.

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik, Rabbi Alex Braver, and Cantor Jack Chomsky

MORE ABOUT JEWISH LEARNING AT TIFEREETH ISRAEL

We understand the demands of today's busy schedules. Our adult Jewish learning programs are designed to allow participants to "drop in" and "drop out" as needed to meet these demands. In addition, a generous gift from members Ron Blank & Bev Weston has provided the equipment needed to make many of our classes available via the internet. To view live streaming classes, please go to our website, tiferethisrael.org, or our Facebook page, [facebook.com/pg/CTIcbus/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CTIcbus/videos/).

Tifereth Israel is an open and accepting community for all Jews and their loved ones, and we strive to embrace both Jewish and non-Jewish family members alike. We are committed to creating an egalitarian environment that is actively welcoming to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental disability.

No one is ever turned away due to financial need. For questions or to discuss alternative financial arrangements, please email Joy in the synagogue office at jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org.

SUNDAY

Torah Trope Tutorial

Dr. Jerry Benis

Katz Chapel

Learn how to chant the Torah trope or refresh your memory. Basic Hebrew reading skills required.

Second & fourth Sunday of each Month

10:00 to 11:00 am **FREE**

October 14 & 28 March 10 & 24

November 11 April 14 & 28

December 9 May 12 & 26

January 13 & 27 June 23

February 10 & 24

Register at: bit.ly/CTITrope5779

Information: jerrybenis@yahoo.com

Pray & Mean It

Cantor Jack Chomsky

Atrium

MONDAY

Kavannah: Jewish Mindfulness

Practice & Study

Rabbi Alex Braver & Beth Brown

Atrium

Explore the deep roots of mindfulness practice and *kavannah*, focus in prayer, in the Jewish textual tradition, from the time of the Talmudic rabbis through the Hassidic mystics of Eastern Europe. Then, join us in trying out a variety of guided meditation exercises. Whether you've never meditated before, or are a mindfulness master, there will be something new to experience in a friendly, safe, and affirming environment. All are welcome!

6:00 to 7:00 pm **FREE**

Session I

March 11 & 25

April 8

Register at: bit.ly/CTIKavannahII5779

Session II

June 17 & 24

Register at: bit.ly/CTIKavannahIII5779

Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org



Israel Discussion Group

NEW!

dinner, drinks & drash

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik & Rabbi Alex Braver

Schmooze over a free dinner and drinks, followed by discussion and learning on a wide range of topics, led by members of the Tifereth Israel clergy team and special guests from across the Jewish community.

Nosh @ 6:00 pm | Drash @ 6:30 pm

RSVP to: bit.ly/CTIDinnerDrinksDrash5779

October 10

Do I Have to Take the Torah Literally?

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik & Rabbi Alex Braver

October 24

Biblical Archaeology: Footprints of Abraham

Dr. Chris Farrar

November 14

Topic TBD

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

November 28

Religion in the Public Square

Dr. Isaac Weiner

December 12

The Meaning of Kaddish

Rabbi Alex Braver

Additional Dates:

January 9 & 23

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 22

June 12 & 26

While this experience is offered at no charge, your donations make it possible for Tifereth Israel to maintain its policy of never turning a student away from any class for inability to pay.

Sponsor a night of learning in honor or memory of a loved one for \$180 or become a chai-level sponsor for \$360. Contact Joy Contreras at 614-928-3291 or jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org for more information.

Asking Jewish Questions: Foundations of Judaism

Rabbi Alex Braver (abraver@tiferethisrael.org)

Whether you've been thinking about converting, or just want to fill in some gaps from your Hebrew school education, come discover a deeper sense of what it means to live a meaningful Jewish life, in a welcoming space that encourages questions and critical thinking. Come check out the first few classes free of charge to see if it's right for you!

Tuesdays, 6:15 to 7:45 pm

October 23 & 30

March 5, 19 & 26

November 6 & 27

April 2, 16 & 23

December 4 & 18

May 14, 21 & 28

January 15, 22 & 29

June 4

Cost: Individual: \$360 / Couple: \$613

*Tifereth Israel members and students receive a 50% discount.
No one is ever turned away due to financial need.*

Register at: bit.ly/CTIquestions5779

Information: Joy Contreras at jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

Save the Date:

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat
Friday & Saturday, January 25-26, 2019

#MeTooAndTorah: Feminist Judaism

Judith Plaskow,
Author of, "Standing
Again at Sinai,"
the first work of
Jewish feminist
theology, and **Martha
Ackelsberg**, professor
of government and
women's studies at
Smith College.



Why do we pray what we pray? What can I do to feel less lost in the prayer service? How can we connect more deeply with the poetry and melodies of the siddur? Join Cantor Chomsky in conversation on these questions and more!

**First & third Monday of each month (usually)
6:30 to 7:30 pm** **FREE**

November 5 & 19	March 4 & 18
December 3 & 17	April 1 & 15
January 14 & 28	May 6 & 13

February 4

Register at: bit.ly/CTIPray5779
Information: jchomsky@tiferethisrael.org

Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Wasserstrom Board Room

Change happens. Each day we face changes in our lives. We experience changes in our families, friendships, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, communities of faith, and society. Loved ones are born and friends and family die. Neighbors move, we move, children grow up and go out into the world. Our jobs change and the society around us keeps changing. How do we deal with these changes? Using the story of the Exodus and the Israelite's journey through the desert as a model, join Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens (Sr. Minister of First Congregational Church and founding pastor of B.R.E.A.D.) along with Rabbis Skolnik and Braver and Cantor Chomsky, as together we take a look into our lives and the transitions we face.

7:00 to 8:30 pm **FREE**

January 7
February 4
March 4

Register at: bit.ly/CTITransitions5779
Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

TUESDAY

Perek Yomi

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

Atrium

Explore a new chapter of the Hebrew Bible each week, beginning with "In the beginning" and moving onward from there! Drop in for a few sessions, or make it a regular part of your week! Includes bagel

breakfast.

**Weekly, starting October 9
8:30 to 9:30 am** **FREE**

Register at: bit.ly/CTIPerekYomi5779
Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

Hebrew Crash Course: Level II

Pamela Feldman-Hill

Katz Chapel

Already know the Hebrew aleph-bet? Review your reading skills while learning basic Hebrew prayer vocabulary, grammar, and phrases as we study familiar Hebrew prayers like Adon Olam and Lecha Dodi.

**Six consecutive Tuesdays
6:00 to 7:30 pm** **FREE**

January 8, 15, 22 & 29
February 5 & 12

Space is Limited

Register at: bit.ly/CTIHebrewII5779
Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

WEDNESDAY

Study Circle: Hassidic Teachings

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik & Rabbi Alex Braver
Minnie Cobey Library

While Hassidic tales have become widely known to modern audiences, the profound spiritual teachings that stand at the very heart of Hassidism have remained a closed book for all except scholars. Join us in studying these extraordinary teachings, made accessible and in translation through Art Green's "Speaking Torah."

9:30 to 10:30 am **FREE**

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
November 7 & 14
February 27
March 6, 13 & 20
April 3 & 10

Register: bit.ly/CTIHassidicTeachings5779
Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

Short Story Group

Helen Chronister, Librarian

Minnie Cobey Library

Have you been wanting to join a book club but never seem to have time to read the book? Our lively short-story discussion group is the perfect alternative. All are welcome.

10:30 to 11:30 am **FREE**
October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

November 7 & 14
February 27
March 6, 13, 20 & 27
April 3 & 10

Register at: bit.ly/CTIShortStory5779
For more: hchronister@tiferethisrael.org

Lunch & Learn Downtown

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik & Rabbi Alex Braver
Noon to 1:00 pm

Anspach Meeks & Ellenberger
175 S. Third Street, Columbus, 43215

Stimulating conversation and Jewish study, on your lunch break! Dairy lunch sponsored by Marty & Debra Rosenthal and Fran & Steve Lesser.

Third Wednesday of each month (usually)
Noon to 1:00 pm **FREE**

October 24	April 17
November 14	May 22
December 19	June 19
January 16	July 17
February 27	August 21
March 27	

RSVP: bit.ly/CTILunchDowntown5779
For more: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

Niggun & Music Havurah

Cantor Jack Chomsky
Katz Chapel

Join in on the joy of music, both vocal and instrumental, with this new experimental "jam session" led by Cantor Chomsky.

Third Wednesday of each month
6:00 to 7:30 pm **FREE**

November 28*	February 20
December 19	April 17
January 16	May 15

Register at: bit.ly/CTINiggun5779
For more: jchomsky@tiferethisrael.org

*PLEASE NOTE: The November 28 meeting will take place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm

THURSDAY

Rashi Plus: Weekly Torah Study

Rabbi Harold Berman

Board Room

Study the classic commentary of Rashi, plus other Medieval Torah commentators,

through careful reading and lively discussion. No Hebrew knowledge needed. New students always welcome.

Weekly, starting October 4
8:15 to 9:15 am **FREE**

No registration required
Information: hberman@tiferethisrael.org

FRIDAY

Book Group: Feminist Theology

Rabbi Alex Braver

Board Room

Join the conversation between two feminist theologians, Judith Plaskow and Carol P. Christ, as they debate the nature of divinity in the world, beginning from the premise that the transcendent, omnipotent, male God of traditional theologies must be re-understood.

Ongoing weekly
8:15 to 9:15 am **FREE**

No registration required
Information: jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org

SHABBAT

Shabbat Warmup

Clergy Team & Guests
Katz Chapel

Prepare your mind, body, and spirit for Shabbat services with a rotating schedule of unique learning opportunities:

ShabbaTunes: Singing and study in preparation for Shabbat. Led by Cantor Jack Chomsky.

Torah Talks: Questions, conversations, and maybe some answers about the week's parasha. Led by Rabbi Alex Braver.

Shabbat Stretch: Light yoga and meditation to get body and soul ready for services. Led by Beth Brown.

Mah Chadash: What's News in Israel: Discussion and debate about the latest happenings in the Jewish state. Led by Rabbi Hillel Skolnik.

Ongoing weekly
9:00 to 9:30 am **FREE**



Tifereth  **Israel**

tiferethisrael.org 1354 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205

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