

# NIGHTSHUL

LEARN MORE, LEARN DIFFERENT

## THURSDAY NIGHT LEARNING AT EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER

NIGHTSHUL challenges you to learn more and learn different. It includes a mix of classes, workshops, and other types of learning opportunities. Whether you prefer to learn from texts or through experience, you'll find NIGHTSHUL to be thought-provoking and engaging.

Join us most Thursdays from February through May for classes, workshops, and other learning opportunities.

\$15 PER NIGHT

\$36 PER THREE-WEEK SESSION

\$120 FOR TWELVE WEEKS

WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL 7:30

LEARNING 8:00

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

SEE BACK FOR SPECIFIC DATES IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY

# TWELVE WEEKS OF NIGHTSHUL

## SESSION 1: FEBRUARY 12, 19, 26

### Purim: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll

Rabbi Matt Carl

Though it has often been perceived and even celebrated as a "children's holiday," Purim may actually be the most "adult" day on the Jewish calendar. In these explorations of *Megillat Esther* and the celebration of Purim, we will look not only at the content of the adult themes, but also why they're so prevalent. Specific topics will include the role of sex and sexuality in the story of Esther; the *Halakhic* (i.e. Jewish legal) status of intoxication on Purim; the creation, destruction and re-creation of identities and the role of social-political unrest in Purim.

February 26 only

### *Freilichen* and Tikkun Olam

Presented by JFREJ

Purim is a holiday where we turn convention on its head. We traditionally do this through masquerade, gambling, drinking and performing Purim shpils. Purim is also a time where we reach out to each other with *mishloach manot* and *tzedakah*. The Purim shpil allows us to do both of these by re-enacting the *Megillat Esther* with a remix of the ancient plot and characters to deliver a slightly drunken but profound contemporary critique of power. As we get ready for Aftselokhes Spectacle Committee Purim shpil, join Jews for Racial and Economic Justice as we use Purim to guide our look at social justice.

This one-week special learning opportunity provides a different way to appreciate some of the meaning of Purim.

FEBRUARY 26 AT 9:00

### After-learning Music Event: Rock & Roll for Purim

The Aftselokhes Spectacle Band

Following the last session of Rabbi Carl's Purim: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll, and JFREJ's *Freilichen* and Tikkun Olam, everyone is invited to an after-event with live music and refreshments.

Rock & Roll for Purim will be held in the newly-renovated Regency Room.

9:00 – 10:30

Cash bar; first drink included in admission.

Additional admission:

\$12 with paid attendance at the learning

\$ 9 for NightShul 12-week ticketholders

Music admission only: \$15

# TWELVE WEEKS OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## MARCH 5 & 7: NIGHTSHUL'S INTER-SESSION BREAK

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) and the Aftselokhes Spectacle Committee present:

### A multi-night Purim spectacular at East Midwood Jewish Center

These JFREJ events are not included in NightShul three- or twelve-week subscriptions.

Admission to JFREJ Purim events is based on a sliding scale and collected at the door.

**Thursday, Mar 5<sup>TH</sup>** The Purim Show

7:00 PM – Midnight

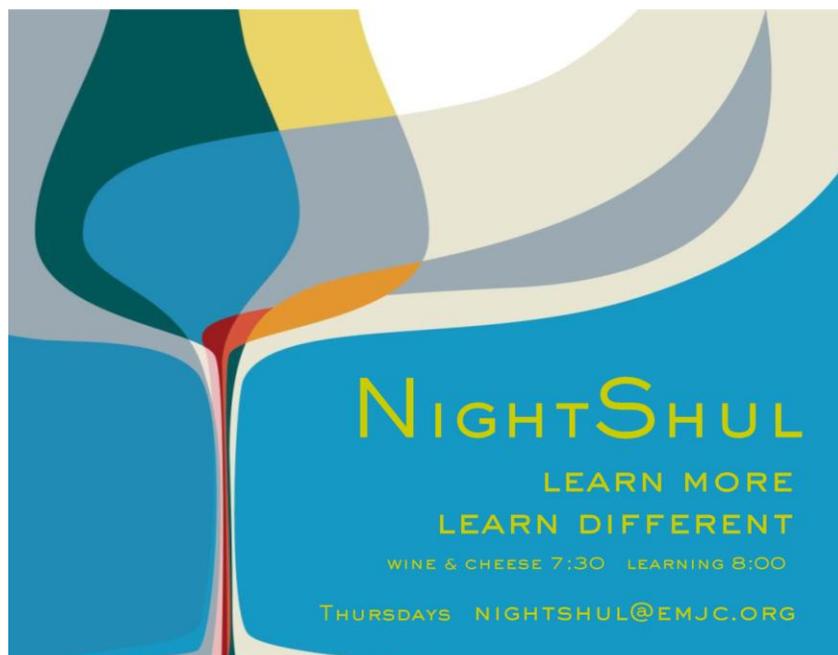
A relatively low-key performance

**Saturday, Mar 7<sup>TH</sup>** Masquerade Ball

7:00 PM – 3:00 AM

A wild masquerade spectacle and celebration

How does JFREJ celebrate Purim? Since 2002, JFREJ has sponsored a radical Purimshpil project founded by artist agitators and educators Adrienne Cooper (zts"l) and Jenny Romaine in partnership with the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter-Ring and the Great Small Works theater collective. For the past few years, the Aftselokhes Spectacle Committee has worked with JFREJ and a long list of other artists and social justice organizations to produce Purim spectacles that bring together hundreds of revelers each year for a wild time. Each year, the Purimshpil offers a powerful example of what can happen when we use our cultural abundance in our political organizing. From 2002's "Giant Puppet Purim Ball Against the Death Penalty" to 2004's "Rehearsal for the Downfall of Shoeshine: An Immigrant Justice Purim Spectacular!" to 2007's "Roti and Homentaschn: The Palace Workers Revolt! A Purim Carnival Spectacular" to 2012's "Your Homentaschen Are Killing Me! A Purim Ball for the body, its resilience, its fragility, and its bounce!" the shows have enlivened, enlightened, confused, and inspired JFREJ members and our friends and comrades.



EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER  
1625 OCEAN AVENUE  
BROOKLYN

# TWELVE WEEKS OF NIGHTSHUL

## SESSION 2: MARCH 12, 19, 26

### "What is this to you?" What You Need to Know for Pesach

Rabbi Matt Carl

Pesach is a time for which it is challenging to prepare, both spiritually and physically. This course might not decrease the challenge but will at least help you do it more thoughtfully. Topics will include kashering for Pesach without making yourself crazy, the question of *kitniyot* (legumes, etc.), and what makes the "wicked son" wicked.

### "Our Service Continues on Page 148:" Towards an Understanding of the *Siddur*

Cantor Sam Levine

More than the Talmud, the *Mishna*, or even the Torah, the *Siddur* (Jewish Prayer Book) is the text that Jews encounter most frequently. It is also the least known and the least studied. In this three-week course, we will survey the history and development of the *siddur* and examine the building blocks of which it is composed, particularly as they pertain to the Shabbat service. Whether you are a beginner or a well-seasoned synagogue-goer, you will gain new insights into the structure of the "people's book."

### Honoring Our Life Transitions Through Jewish Rituals

Presented by immerseNYC

Rabbi Sara Luria and Dasi Fruchter

A *mikveh*, a community *mikveh* project, is about the whole of lived experience, about reaching out and drawing in. Jews of color, Jews who don't otherwise participate in Jewish life, Orthodox women who have been immersing quietly, Queer Jews, Reform Jews who rarely experience embodied ritual.

MARCH 26 AT 9:00

### After-learning Music Event: The Matzoh Ball

To mark the completion of the second session of NightShul, and get an early start on the joy of Pesach, NightShul invites you to celebrate with us at our Matzoh Ball.

NightShul's Matzoh Ball will be held in the newly-renovated Regency Room.

9:00 – 10:30

In addition to music, snacks and drinks will be available.

Cash bar; first drink included in admission.

Additional admission:

\$12 with paid attendance at the learning

\$ 9 for NightShul 12-week ticketholders

Music admission only: \$15

# TWELVE WEEKS OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## SESSION 3: APRIL 16, 23, 30

### History or Hagiography: the Rabbis' Biographies of Themselves

Rabbi Matt Carl

From the backs of baseball cards to rockumentaries, every medium has its own way of documenting the lives of its favorite characters. Talmudic literature is no exception. In this course, we'll delve deeply into a few of the Talmud's stories that describe (sometimes painfully, humorously, and/or outlandishly) how these guys became our great Sages.

### Prayer and Poetry Pack a Punch: The Three Festival and High Holiday Liturgy

Cantor Sam Levine

The magnificence and power of Hebrew prayer come to full fruition in the liturgies of the Three Festivals (*Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*) and, especially, the High Holydays. In this three-week course, we will look at how the units of prayer are put to work to accentuate these high-points on the Jewish calendar. We will also consider the use of *piyyutim* (liturgical poems) as adornments to the *matbei'a hat'fillah* (statutory prayers) and examine how the themes of these special days are brought into full relief by the great medieval poets who authored them.

## SESSION 4: MAY 7, 14, 21

### The Prophetic Experience \*

Dr. Rabbi Barat Ellman

What does it mean to be a prophet? The prophetic experience in Israel as represented in the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) was both sublime and terrible. Isaiah and Ezekiel had to perform uncomfortable and degrading symbolic actions in order to warn Israel of the consequences of its behavior. Hosea's personal life—his marriage, his parenting—was wholly taken over and made to dramatize the relationship between God and God's people. Jeremiah suffered physically and psychically in the service of the divine program. In this course, we will read passages from the books of Hosea, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah which shed light on the nature of the prophetic experience and the extraordinary effect it had on those chosen by God to be God's mouthpiece. A few prophetic accounts from other ancient Near Eastern cultures will be brought in for comparison's sake.

\* The Prophetic Experience is sponsored by Marsha & Eliot Solomon in honor of Karl Solomon.

### Prayer and Poetry Pack a Punch: The Three Festival and High Holiday Liturgy

Cantor Sam Levine

The Ashkenazi musical tradition that is used in the synagogue today began to take shape as early as the 9th century CE. Some of the melodies that have been passed down to us are likely older than that. In this class, we will look at the development of *nusach ashkenaz* (Ashkenazic musical tradition) and how it evolved into *nusach america* in North America. We will unpack the modes, motifs, and melodies of the synagogue service and see how each individual unit of *t'fillah* (prayer) has rules that guide its musical performance. We will also examine how the *chazzan* (cantor) acts as the artistic interpreter of prayer within the confines of *nusach* (musical liturgy).

# FACULTY AND PARTNERS

## EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER

### Permanent Faculty

#### Rabbi Matt Carl

Rabbi Carl was born and raised in Long Beach, California. He graduated from Vassar College with Honors in 2000, majoring in religion and minoring in environmental geography, and from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Machon Schechter in 2008, where he specialized in Talmud and Rabbinics.

While at JTS he trained as a chaplain at Sloan Kettering Medical Center. For several years Carl was the day-to-day rabbi for 150 families at Brooklyn's Congregation Mount Sinai, creating programs for the younger generation and unaffiliated Jews. He co-founded the Brooklyn United Jewish High School Program with several other local synagogue educators and created the Brooklyn Bridge Community Supported Agriculture program. He served as rabbi of Battery Park Synagogue and also as Director of Community Engagement at Hazon.



#### Cantor Sam Levine

Sam Levine has been serving as cantor at EMJC in Brooklyn since 2004. He was born in Jerusalem and raised in Toronto, Canada, spending a decade in the Monterey Bay area of California before moving to New York. He is a graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School and the Seminary College of Jewish Music at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. His musical interests are diverse: he is an aficionado of traditional Jewish liturgical music, plays in a Ladino ensemble, and has played in various folk-rock-country groups. He directs the EMJC Chorus and composes and arranges music for the synagogue as well as writing and recording original songs.



### Guest Faculty

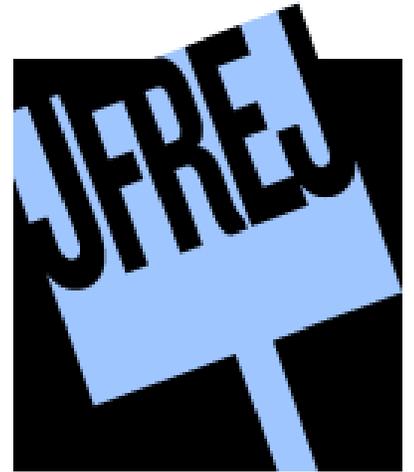


#### Dr. Rabbi Barat Ellman

Dr. Rabbi Barat Ellman (Jewish Theological Seminary, '04, '11) is a scholar of Hebrew Bible. Her areas of research interests include: biblical religion, biblical semantics and ideology, and the social world reflected in the Bible. She recently published *Memory and Covenant: The Role of Israel's and God's Memory in Sustaining the Deuteronomic and Priestly Covenants* (Fortress, 2013), and is currently working on studies about pain and suffering in the Bible. A Wexner Graduate Fellow and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Ellman is an adjunct professor of Old Testament at Fordham University and an adjunct professor of Bible at JTS.

## Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ)

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ) was founded in 1990 to address the increase in racial and ethnic tension and economic disparity within our city. In the past 24 years, JFREJ has become a vital resource inside the Jewish community and an important source of support for a diverse array of community-based organizations in New York. JFREJ's membership has strengthened a progressive Jewish voice in debates over our city's future and has activated the established Jewish community as a partner in citywide struggles for justice. Through educational fora, workshops, grassroots political campaigns, and a weekly radio program, JFREJ is committed to revitalizing a Jewish ethic of social justice, cooperation and mutual struggle for human dignity. In coalition with communities of color and labor organizations, JFREJ works to achieve economic equality and an end to all forms of oppression by organizing for social programs, housing, education, fair labor practices, accountable policing, and immigrants' rights. JFREJ's educational programs and activism make connections between anti-Semitism and racism, and between Jewish and other radical histories and contemporary movements for justice.



ImmerseNYC is a pluralistic, Jewish, feminist organization in New York City that facilitates deep ritual experiences, supportive peer communities, and educational programs. We work to strengthen and transform individual Jews who can then strengthen and transform their communities and the world.



### Rabbi Sara Luria, Founder and Executive Director

As a trained community organizer, birth doula, and chaplain, Sara incorporates into her work a passion for justice, belief in the centrality of relationships, and dedication to marking transformative, sacred experiences. Sara served as the community organizing rabbinic intern at East End Temple in Manhattan from 2010-2012. Before entering rabbinical school, she worked as a Jewish educator in the Bay Area. Sara is an alumna of the JOIN for Justice year-long fellowship that trains young Jewish leaders in community organizing, and graduated with honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Sara lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Isaac, and their young children, Caleb and Eva.

### Dasi Fruchter, Rabbinic Intern

Hadas (Dasi) thrives on spiritual leadership, community building, and faith-driven social justice work. Originally from Silver Spring, MD, she is studying to be ordained as clergy at Yeshivat Maharat, the first institution to train Orthodox Jewish women as spiritual leaders and halakhic (Jewish law) authorities. Dasi is also a student at NYU and a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar, pursuing an MPA at the Wagner School for Public Service and an M.A. in Jewish Studies. Dasi has experience organizing for economic justice with organizations in New York, Washington D.C., London, and Israel, is a presenter on Judaism, social justice, feminism and conflict resolution at synagogues, schools, and conferences.



## CALENDAR

February	5	12 NightShul	19 NightShul	26 NightShul	
March	5 JFREJ Purim Show	12 NightShul	19 NightShul	26 NightShul	
April	2	9	16 NightShul	23 NightShul	30 NightShul
May	7 NightShul	14 NightShul	21 NightShul	28	

Watch for additions to the NightShul calendar. Schedule subject to change.

## LEARNING FEES

	non-members	members
one week's learning	15	15
three weeks' learning in one session	36	30
twelve weeks' learning	120	100

to register online, visit EMJC's website at [emjc.org](http://emjc.org)



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