



Passover 2015

Annual Morning of Learning

Held at **Fountainview** at College Rd., 200 Fountainview Drive, Monsey, NY

Tuesday, March 17

Enrich your mind and prepare for the Festival of Freedom!

Choose one course from each session. Cost is \$10.00 total.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Please indicate your choice with a check mark.

Please include \$10.00 with this form, payable to Jewish Federation of RC

Advanced Registration Required, Space is Limited

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Passover 2015 Morning of Learning

9:30 AM: Coffee/check-in

10-11 AM: Session One:

 (1A) Table Tune-Up... *Texts for Today and Tomorrow*

Is your Seder feeling like “same old, same old?” Has it become more about reading than engaging and exploring? If so, it’s time to bring your Seder into the shop for an hour of exploring texts from a variety of sources for participants of all ages. We’ll talk and search and discover and, perhaps, challenge one another a bit. Some will wind up on your cutting room floor, but others will add a new taste to your Seder table.

Sharon Halper

 (1B) The Second Plague – What Was So Bad About Frogs?

We imagine the plagues as horrible devastations on the lives of the Egyptians, forcing them to uproot their system of forced labor which enslaved the Israelites for hundreds of years to ensure the Egyptians' comfortable lifestyle. But frogs? What was so terrible about those cute amphibious creatures hopping around? Annoying maybe, but a plague? In our discussion we will study how our sages wrestled with this question and explore aspects of the ancient Egyptian belief system which could reveal the power of this plague.

Rabbi Adam Baldachin

11-11:30 AM: Tour the beautiful facilities at Fountainview.

11:30-12:30 AM: Session Two:

 (2A) Torah – Playing with White Fire

Torah is said to be black fire on white fire – the black fire is the text itself, and the white fire is the space in between the text – all the information that the text doesn’t make explicit, where our imaginations can wander. In this interactive session, we will look at Torah text related to the Passover story, using it as a jumping-off point to investigate the white fire, as we envision what the characters in the story might have been thinking and feeling. Join us for a new and creative way of interacting with the Torah text.

Rabbi Jill Hackell

 (2B) The Four Children Within

Who are the four children of our Passover Seder? What do they represent? How does our tradition approach each of them and do we make room for each at our Seders?

Rabbi Craig Scheff



Our Presenters

Rabbi Adam Baldachin joined the Montebello Jewish Center as its Rabbi and spiritual leader in July 2013. Rabbi Baldachin finds interpersonal connection through meaningful Jewish experiences to be at the core of his rabbinic calling. He is thrilled to be working at Montebello Jewish Center because of its focus on tight-knit community, musical prayer services, interest in life-long learning, and welcoming atmosphere. Rabbi Baldachin brings his musical ability, love of informal education, community building, outreach, and pastoral counselling to MJC.

Dr. Rabbi Jill Hackell received her M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and practiced pediatrics for several years. She worked for over 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry, where she did clinical research on new vaccines for children. She was ordained at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic rabbinical school. Her paper on “Non-Heart Beating Donor (NHBD) Organ Transplantation: A Jewish Bioethical Analysis” was presented at the Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics Conference in 2008. Rabbi Hackell is the current Rabbi at the West Clarkstown Jewish Center. She also teaches Midreshet Rockland, *Why is it so Hard to Talk about Israel and What Can We Do About it?*

Sharon Halper has been in the field of Jewish Education for three decades, first in the field of informal youth education and as a Reform Congregational Educator and then as a Melton Adult Mini-School Teacher and Director. She has also served as Regional Educator for the Union for Reform Judaism. Sharon currently teaches Midreshet Rockland, *Topics in Torah: Leviticus*.

Rabbi Craig Scheff did not follow a traditional path to the rabbinate. Though his friends nick-named him “Rabs” in high school, and despite the many Saturday mornings he spent in synagogue at his father’s side, his formal Jewish studies did not begin until college, and even that was part of a path to law school. While attending Harvard University, Rabbi Scheff chose a concentration in Near Eastern Studies, and graduated with honors magna cum laude.

Upon graduation, he entered Boston University School of Law, where he earned several honors in oral advocacy. Upon becoming a member of the Massachusetts Bar in 1989, Rabbi Scheff practiced commercial litigation for three years. Feeling spiritually unfulfilled, Rabbi Scheff, with his wife Nancy's support, gave up his career in Law and began the long process of studying towards the rabbinate