

a taste of honey



19th Annual Evening of Community Learning
Saturday, January 31, 6:45-11:15pm
Snow Date: Saturday, February 7 | 7pm

Join us as over 300 participants come to schmooze, celebrate learning, and enjoy Jewish life in our community.

JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd. Woodbridge, CT

6:45-7:15pm: Nosh, Wine & Registration

7:15 pm: Havdallah Led by Rabbi Rona Shapiro & Cantorial Student Malachi Kanfer

7:30-8:15pm: Debbie Friedman Memorial Tribute Concert

7:30-8:15pm: Session I

8:30-9:15pm: Session II

9:25-10:25pm: New York Times Film Critic A.O. Scott

10:30 pm-11:15pm: Coffee & Dessert

Cost: \$18 | Students/Seniors: \$12

Info: Ruth Gross ruthg@jccnh.org (203) 387-2522, x310

In case of inclement weather, please call (203) 387-2522 after 6:15pm, January 31 for an update.



Special Presentation 9:25-10:25pm

“Between Memory and Imagination: Paradoxes of the Holocaust on Film”

featuring **New York Times Film Critic A.O. Scott** in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day

35 years after Claude Lanzmann's epochal documentary "Shoah," more than two decades after Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List" won the Best Picture Oscar, the Holocaust remains an irresistible and perhaps inexhaustible subject for filmmakers. What are the ethical risks and responsibilities of taking up a uniquely grave historical subject in a medium most often dedicated to entertainment? As the destruction of Europe's Jews recedes from living memory, have new ways of telling the story of the dead and the survivors opened up? We will examine some of these questions by looking at films ranging from "Night and Fog" to "Inglourious Basterds," paying particular attention to recent films from Germany, France and Eastern Europe.

A.O. Scott has been a film critic at *The New York Times* since 2000, and a frequent contributor to the paper's *Magazine* and *Book Review*. He was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in criticism in 2010 and in 2014 was appointed Distinguished Professor of Film Criticism at Wesleyan University. In 2016 Penguin Press will publish his book "Better Living Through Criticism," which will be followed by "What I Thought I Saw: Reflections on Movies and Life in the 21st Century." Mr. Scott lives with his family in Brooklyn.

A.O. Scott's talk is underwritten by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

A Taste of Honey is supported by the Dr. Brigitte Prusoff Fund for the "A Taste of Honey Program" at the Jewish Foundation and by the Henry & Helene Kasha Fund for the Teaching of the Hebrew Language at the Jewish Foundation

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Featuring **New York Times Film Critic A.O. Scott** speaking on
“**Between Memory and Imagination: Paradoxes of the Holocaust on Film**”

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Debbie Friedman Memorial Tribute Concert

Singer and songwriter Debbie Friedman (1951-2011) is credited with revitalizing the music and spirituality of North American synagogues. She recorded over 20 albums. **Rabbi Michael Farbman and the Temple Emanuel Band and Children's Choir**

Space is limited! Register now to get your first pick of classes. Walk-ins welcome. Online registration at www.jccnh.org

First Session: 7:30-8:15pm

1A. Debbie Friedman Memorial Tribute Concert

1B. Constructing The Welcoming Tent

What is the classical mitzvah of welcoming in strangers? In what way might our contemporary challenges of inclusion be related to this religious duty?
Rabbi Steven Greenberg, CLAL Senior Teaching Fellow and Founder, Eshel, an Orthodox LGBT community support and education organization.

1C. Why Do Mitzvot Matter? Weaving the Fabric of a Jewish Life

We have been taught that mitzvot are good deeds, that feeling Jewish and being proud of one's Jewish identity is what matters. But will this sustain us for another generation? Will feelings and pride connect us to one another and to God or do we need a more sustained spiritual practice?
Rabbi Rona Shapiro, Congregation B'nai Jacob

1D. Seven Generations of Song

Nigunim of the Rebbeim features an archival film selection of eleven Nigunim, sung in the presence of the seventh Rebbe, with documentary introductions exploring each song's history and context. Video, discussion and sing-along.
Rabbi Yossi Hodakov, Chabad of Westville

1E. Jewish/Democracy Israel Dilemma

Panel discussion on the bill that would officially define Israel as the national state of the Jewish people, reserving national rights only for Jews. Explore what this nationality bill might mean to those whose rights would be diminished and to Israel as a democratic state.
Steven D. Fraade, Yale University; **Stephen Wizner**, Yale University;
Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier, Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale

1F. Life and Work of Famous Jewish Actors and Singers in Russia in the 20th Century featuring Solomon Mikhoels Lecture in Russian (2 hrs). Svetlana Kriger and Irina Polyakova

Second Session: 8:30-9:15pm

2A. Burnt Feet, Snake Charm and Satanic Lessons: Three Rabbinic Stories about Tzedakah and its Transformative Powers

The rabbis taught in the context of a living community. The stories rabbis tell in the Talmud demonstrate, expand and sometimes resist their penchant for rules. With these three Talmudic legends we discover the roots of their moral thinking and their awareness that sometimes life can nuance moral rules.
Rabbi Steven Greenberg, CLAL Senior Teaching Fellow

2B. Biblical David: Mythology and Realpolitik

Sacrificing any life to save more lives has been a vexing moral problem in the Bible, in the Talmud, and throughout Jewish history. Through text study of 2 Samuel 21 we will delve into the drama and politics of this most problematic portrait of David.
Leslie Brisman, Yale University

2C. How Can We Stay Silent in the Face of Evil? When Are We Obligated to Speak Out?

If we believe in the Torah mandate "justice, justice you shall pursue," then ought we not respond to questions of torture, race relations, human rights, or sexual abuse? Explore the Torah and Talmudic principle: The Moral Obligation to Speak Out Against Wrongdoing.
Rabbi Ben Scolnic, Temple Beth Shalom, and **Sydney Perry**, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

2D. Sing and Learn Yiddish!

Learn a "bissel" or refresh your Yiddish the easy way with this fun sing along.
Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, Congregation Or Shalom

2E. USY Inter-Dating Social Media Firestorm

At the recent USY International Convention, a policy amendment was passed to promote a more inclusive approach to inter-dating, unleashing a firestorm of reaction. What does this suggest for the Conservative movement's relationship to mitzvot? Let's talk.
Noa Shapiro-Franklin, USY Hanefesh Regional President; **Tova Benson-Tilsen**, Hanefesh Regional Religious Education Vice-President; **Rabbi Rona Shapiro**, Congregation B'nai Jacob

2F. Solomon Mikhoels Continued from Session I

2G. Secrets of the Kitchen Cooking Class, Chef and restaurateur of ROIA New Haven shares special secrets of the kitchen.
Avi Szapiro. Limited to 20. **NOTE: There is a change of time for this class. It will run from 9:25-10:25pm.**

2H. "Homeland" vs. "Hatufim": Israel through the Eyes of Television

Look at the issues and challenges facing Israeli society through the lens of a powerful TV show "Hatufim" (Prisoners of War), the original behind Showtime's "Homeland."
Rabbi Michael Farbman, Temple Emanuel

2I. Berakhot: Why Do We Really Bless Before We Eat?

Examine blessings we recite before we eat and a reassessment of the traditional understanding of these blessings. Why were these blessings instituted? What do they tell us about rabbinic theology and society? And what role can they continue to play in our lives as 21st century Jews?
Simeon Cohen, Rabbinic Intern, Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale

2J. Dipping into the Mikvah

Many Jews feel a lack of awareness, understanding, and relationship to the Mikvah (Jewish ritual bath). In the wake of a recent egregious breach in the privacy of the mikvah experience, how might we ensure that the ritual has relevancy and supervision for all who wish to use the mikvah for conversion, family purity and transitional moments in Jewish life.
DeDe Jacobs-Komisar, Mayyim Hayyim

2L. Maimonides: Man vs. Myth

What do we really know about Maimonides that is not obscured by current veneration? Looks at fact vs. mythology – the itinerant years of Maimonides' early life that shaped much of his writings, his works in Jewish thought and medicine, his attitude toward women, a sampling of his remedies, and the controversies that erupted over his ideas after his death.
Andree Aelion Brooks, journalist, author and lecturer

2M. Introduction to Mussar and Inner Calm: Making Life a Tapestry of Intimate Moments

Examine Judaism as a technology for developing a human being into an expert at relationships. We will zero in on "Mussar" – the Torah's wisdom on practical ethics, psychology and character refinement – maintaining inner presence in the face of life's pressures and distractions.
Rabbi Adam Heavenrich, Meor at Yale

2N. Where Do I Fit In?

Understanding our place in the world according to Kabbalah.
Rabbi Mendy Hecht, Orchard Street Shul, New Haven

2O. Did God Actually Give The 10 Commandments at Sinai?

Explore different theories of revelation of Torah and why they matter.
Rabbi Joshua Ratner, JCRC, Jewish Federation and Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale

Sessions are subject to change. Check www.jccnh.org for updates.

A Taste of Honey 2015 Registration Form

To register, go to www.jccnh.org/taste-of-honey or detach and return this form. Make checks payable to JCCNH.
Register online by 1/22/15 to guarantee your class.

Participant's Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Class Choices: First Session # _____ Second Session # _____

Registration:

- ☐ \$18 Participant
☐ \$12 Student/Senior (Students must bring valid student ID)

A Taste of Honey is made possible by community support. Please consider including a tax-deductible donation with your form.

We hope you will partner with us once again in bringing this important program to our community. All partners will be thanked in the A Taste of Honey program book and receive priority registration. Our giving levels include:

- ☐ \$54 Friend ☐ \$72 Angel ☐ \$180 Patron ☐ \$360 Supporter
☐ \$500 Sponsor

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Participant's Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Class Choices: First Session # _____ Second Session # _____