

TORAH AS A BOOK OF LAW: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US AS REFORM JEWS?



Temple Emanuel's Fourth Annual Torah Fair
Sunday, April 2nd, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker—Rabbi Yitzhak Breitowitz

9:00 a.m. *Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

Participants will meet in the Sanctuary to begin the morning together with a brief welcome from Rabbi Stone and introduction of our Keynote Speaker, Rabbi Yitzhak Breitowitz. Rabbi Breitowitz is the Rabbi of Woodside Synagogue in Silver Spring and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Maryland. He is a frequent lecturer on the interface between law and halacha and on medical, business, and family ethics.

9:15-10:00 a.m. *“The Structure and Process of Jewish Law,”* Rabbi Breitowitz

God speaks to His people in multiple ways—by exhortation, by narrative, by historical encounter, and by law. Historically, the path to Godliness has been defined by adherence to a set of behavioral norms known as the halacha (the path). Although some have described the halacha as static and inflexible, the halachic process is dynamic, creative and responsive to the ever-changing realities of life while remaining faithful to its traditional constructs. This lecture will briefly describe the halachic process and its primary literary sources.

10:15-11:00 a.m. *Choose from the following presentations:*

***“Land for Peace as Viewed from the Standpoint of Jewish Law,”* Rabbi Breitowitz**

The recent disengagement from Gaza reopened the painful question of surrendering parts of the land of Israel in order to achieve a lasting peace. Some religious Jews have maintained that the halacha absolutely prohibits such surrender and have even called upon the military to refuse to carry out the withdrawal. This talk will focus on the halachic issues, but will not attempt to argue the political wisdom of any particular approach.

“Why are Women so Frightening? Laws of Women’s Purity,”* Orna Landau Rosner

Participants will discuss the laws of women’s purity in parashat tazia mezora (Leviticus) and how these laws, and the Rabbis interpretations of them throughout the generations, reflect the perception of women as a source of sickness, death and contagious fears, rather than as carriers of life. The discussion will include the sources of these collective fears, their manifestations in other religions and their presence in today’s popular culture. *Orna Landau Rosner is Temple Emanuel’s executive director. A native Israeli, Orna is a former newspaper writer and columnist, as well as a television critic. She completed her Masters of Arts thesis on “Body Representations of Women in Television Drama Series,” and has taught and given lectures on media, popular culture and feminist interpretations of the Torah at various universities and other institutions.

***“The Mystical Heretic: An Exploration into Jewish Mysticism & Kabbalah,”* Rabbi Stone**

Explore original texts of the Zohar and Kabbalah and understand why the legalists were so threatened by the mystics of Jewish life.

“Creative Interpretation of the Law,”* Karen Fricke

Add a Tzedakah box or Mezuzah to your home during this hands-on workshop. Choose ways to embellish your creation with an assortment of papers, Israeli postage stamps, beads, buttons, ribbon, fibers and charms. (Note: 15 participants maximum) *Karen Fricke creates quilted pieces that usually begin with the written word, something from the prayer book, a poem, a blessing, or a line of Torah. Her work has been featured in many local venues, including the Strathmore Arts Mansion, G Street Fabrics, and Temple Emanuel. Karen’s inspiring creativity and sense of fun make her classes enjoyable for all.

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Temple Emanuel's Fourth Annual Torah Fair
Sunday, February 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

SPECIAL STUDENT PROGRAMMING *All Students Report at 9 a.m.*

All students will meet from 9-11 this day (no late session). The first hour of the day will be devoted to activities related to the theme of "Torah As A Book of Law." Students will meet in their "regular" class for the second hour.

First Hour Student Activities:

Grades 9-10 will join together to participate in a program on the theme led by 10th grade teacher David Friedland.

Grade 8 will visit Holy Redeemer Church with their teacher Paul Berman, as previously scheduled.

Grades 6-7 will join together for a program called: "Smoke, Fire, Mountains, Thunder, Voices: Is This Any Way to Deliver the 10 Commandments?" led by 7th grade teacher Scott Hempling. Students will re-enact the beginnings of Judaism, all as described in the week's Torah parsha (Yitro, Exodus 18:1-20:23), and create a debate between Moses and the Jewish people asking "why these commandments and not others?"

Grades 4-5 will join together to participate in a bibliodrama led by Rena Fruchter, Board of Jewish Education resource specialist.

Grades K-3 will join together to discuss the 10 commandments with 3rd grade teacher Sandi Jacobs and then, with the help of art teacher De Herman, create their own scrolls depicting commandments of their choice. The student's scrolls will be put on display in the school wing.

Second Hour Student Activities:

Students will return to their respective classrooms for "regular" classroom instruction. Tenth graders will attend Rabbi Breitowitz's presentation on "Land for Peace."

