



daytime & evening classes

JEWISH WISDOM HAS TRAVELED LONG AND FAR TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

5785 Winter Classes 2025



**LIVING WISDOM:
YEAR OF DISCOVERY:
OMG: CAN YOU
BELIEVE?!** \$479 ALL THREE COURSES / \$210 EACH COURSE INCLUDES E-BOOK
MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA

**SUNDAY MORNINGS / 10:00-11:30AM
DEC 15-JAN 26 / FEB 2-MAR 16 / MAR 23- MAY 18
VIA ZOOM / WITH MICHAEL RAILEANU**

Dive into the BIG questions around God and God's relationship to Humankind. From the mundane to the holy, uncover a connection to God through the rich wisdom found within Jewish texts. Examine the many different understandings of God, free will, and mitzvot expressed by Jewish philosophers, rabbis, leaders past and present - add your voice. Explore the divine, the prophetic, and even the supernatural, as we amplify and dissect your deepest God-questions. Just do not expect to leave with any final answers. Upcoming in this series: Pray It Forward with Rabbi Ari Averbach



**Beyond Borders:
The History of
the Arab-Israeli
Conflict Part I**

10 TUESDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:30AM
VIA ZOOM / WITH BENZY KOGEN
JAN 7, 14, 21, 28, FEB 4, 11, 18, 25, MAR 4, 11
\$360 INCLUDES E-BOOK /MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA
THIS COURSE CONTINUES IN SPRING WITH PART II

Examine maps, media documents, original speeches & the famous "Balfour Declaration" anew, as we study the roots of the conflict between Jews & Arabs over the modern State of Israel. These 10 sessions encompass the return of the Jews to the land, the role of the British, the Cold War, the rise of Palestinian nationalism, the 1967 War, and the post-1967 vision for a "Greater Israel", including the initial rise of Islamic fundamentalism. From religion and culture to history, politics, economics, identity, and survival, the material is designed to encourage discussion and debate, challenging learners to appreciate the basis of the claims made by all sides.



Experience non-denominational Jewish text-study.
No homework. No prep. No Hebrew required.
Subsidies available.



**Feminine
Phenomena
in the Bible**

10 WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:30AM
VIA ZOOM / WITH REVITAL SOMEKH-GOLDREICH
JAN 8, 15, 22, 29, FEB 5, 12, 19, 26, MAR 5, 12
\$360

In addition to less-often studied commentary on the spiritual giantesses of the Bible, we will explore intriguingly feminine - and not necessarily feminist - phenomena in unexpected passages. Text, image, and sound will illuminate ancient mores that persist to this day, as well as related dynamics around identity, gender, and values. Texts will be assessed through mythical, historical, theological, geopolitical, and sociological lenses - considering ethics, current affairs, and pop culture - to discover new and relevant ideas and to co-create interpretations (midrashim). **This course is designed by local faculty.**



EXPRESS YOURSELF AND MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.

Click here to register for classes
<https://tec.shulcloud.com/form/Melton-Registration>

Click here to learn more about classes
<https://www.meltonwestvalley.org/course-descriptions>



Israeli Literature as a Window to a Diverse and Vibrant Society

10 THURSDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:00AM
VIA ZOOM / WITH RABBI ADAM SCHAFFER
JAN 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 13, 20, 27, MAR 6, 13
\$310 INCLUDES MELTON E-BOOK READER
MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA

Encounter Israeli society through the pens of Israel's leading writers, discovering voices that are original, frank, contemporary, and heartfelt. This course takes you on a literary journey offering a fresh and fascinating examination of Israeli society. Learners will gain insights into the Israeli national psyche through written reflections on themes including longing for Zion, War, Peace, Immigration, Land and Identity.

Have more questions? Need assistance? Subsidies available.
Email Conejo West Valley Melton Director pamela@templeetzchaim.org

Paying by check? Register online for class(es) first, then send check to TEC 1080 E. Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks CA 91360



Moses Maimonides and His Enduring Contributions

10 THURSDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:30AM
VIA ZOOM / WITH MICHAEL RAILEANU
JAN 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 13, 20, 27, MAR 6, 13
\$360

Join us as we explore the life, writings, and philosophy of one of the world's greatest minds: Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, the RAMBAM (1138 - 1204). His ongoing influence is felt in Jewish studies, mathematics, philosophy, and myriad other areas around the world. A Sephardic rabbi and philosopher who became one of the most prolific and influential Torah scholars of the Middle ages, he was also a preeminent astronomer and physician serving as the personal physician of Saladin. We will examine his continuing impact and his multifaceted life.
This course is designed by local faculty.



Baruch Spinoza and the Birth of Modern Theology

10 THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-8:30 PM
VIA ZOOM / WITH MICHAEL RAILEANU
JAN 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 13, 20, 27, MAR 6, 13
\$310

Baruch Spinoza was one of the most influential philosophers between the renaissance and the modern age. His thoughts on God, Nature, reality, community, and existence continue to influence us to this day. His thought processes are complex and intricate but also beautiful and inspirational. Join us as we explore someone whose influence has reached well beyond his humble Dutch beginnings and will continue to do so for quite some time.
This course is designed by local faculty.




Melton courses come with an eBook reader. You can choose to purchase a Melton paper book for \$50 when registering.

Click here to register for classes
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Click here to learn more
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JOIN THE GREAT JEWISH CONVERSATION NO MATTER YOUR AGE OR BACKGROUND.

Discover this unique, welcoming interactive experience.
Subsidies are available to assist interested learners.



IMMERSE YOURSELF. TELL A FRIEND.
NEW TO MELTON? EMAIL PAMELA TO HELP
YOU FIND YOUR PLACE TO GET STARTED.

Please help sponsor Jewish literacy and friendship in our community by clicking [here](#)
Questions? Email Conejo West Valley Melton Director pamela@templeetzchaim.org

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OF JEWISH TEXTS AND RELEVANT IDEAS.

OUR ACCESSIBLE APPROACH PROMOTES OPEN DIALOGUE AND
NURTURES A DEEPENING OF JEWISH IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY.