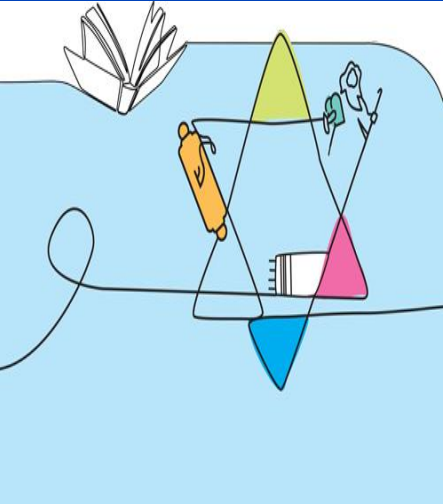




daytime & evening classes

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

# 5785 Spring Classes 2025



## LIVING WISDOM: YEAR OF DISCOVERY: MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE

6 SUNDAY MORNINGS / 10:00-11:30AM  
MARCH 23, 30. APRIL 6, 27, MAY 4, 18  
IN PERSON AT TEC AND VIA ZOOM  
WITH BENZY KOGEN AND MICHAEL RAILEANU  
\$210 INCLUDES E-BOOK/ MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA

Dive deep into a fundamental, challenging question: “What is the overarching purpose of living Jewishly?” We’ll discuss the responsibilities, pressures, and misconceptions that come with being called “the Chosen People.” Together, we’ll learn the meanings behind rituals like kashrut, symbols like mezuzah, and why Israel matters so much. A deeper understanding of “the Tribe” informs and enriches both the nation’s collective actions as well as individual responses to life’s big questions.



## Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict Part 2

10 TUESDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:30AM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH BENZY KOGEN  
APRIL 1, 8, 22, 29, MAY 6, 13, 20, 27, JUNE 10, 17  
\$360 INCLUDES E-BOOK /MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA

Explore the complexities of the past half-century of the Arab-Israeli conflict, from the War of Attrition, that began post-1967, to present tensions. Analyzing newspaper articles, speeches, poems, photographs, and maps, we will trace the more recent history of this entrenched struggle. How did we get from 1973’s Yom Kippur War to the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty? What was the value of the Oslo Accords? What has been the impact of more contemporary peace attempts? Together, we’ll leap into these complex topics, probing why a lasting peace between Israel and the Arab world has been so elusive and what developments might be next.



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



## Timeless Wisdom from the Books of Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Song of Songs

10 WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:00AM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH RABBI SHANA LEON  
APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 14, 21, 28, JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25  
\$340 INCLUDES E-BOOK /MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA

Delve into the mysteries of these ancient scrolls as they muse over the meaning of life, describe national suffering, and depict the power of love. In this 10-part course, selections of these biblical texts will be examined through the lens of commentaries—ancient and contemporary—as they uncover and untangle the complex and everlasting messages about our relationship to the Divine, Humanity and everyday life.



**EXPRESS YOURSELF, ASK QUESTIONS,  
MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.**

Click here to register for classes  
<http://tec.shulcloud.com/form/melton-registrations-2024-2025-spring>

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



## **Jewish Storytelling Isn't Child's Play**

**6 WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, 10:00-11:30AM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH JORDANNA FLORES  
APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 14, 21, 28  
\$210**

A cow in the house, feathers in the air and a cracked diamond. Together we will examine stories from our tradition and the values these stories teach us, deepening our understanding of their messages by engaging with commentary both ancient and modern. While looking at how these stories have manifested throughout Jewish history and culture, we will explore concepts such as Gratitude, The Power of the Mindset, Wit, Education, Tzedakah & Communal Responsibility, and Deeds vs. Actions, all the while asking, Where do you see yourself in this story? How does this story inform your own story? **This course is designed by local faculty.**

Have more questions? Need assistance? Subsidies available.  
Email Conejo West Valley Melton Director [pamela@templeetzchaim.org](mailto: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



## **Social Justice: The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice**

**10 THURSDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:00AM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH BENZY KOGEN  
APRIL 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26  
\$340 INCLUDES E-BOOK /MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA**

Confronting wrongs and instigating systemic change is no small order – but it's an essential Jewish pursuit. This course highlights the Jewish call to action and provides a practical approach for achieving lasting change. Drawing from classic and modern texts, we'll explore the communal connection that compels us to support the most vulnerable. While serious issues such as poverty, climate change and systemic racism may seem insurmountable, together we will discover strategies for local and global progress, providing a framework for taking a stand on issues of concern within one's own community.



## **Exploring a Forgotten World: A Social History of Medieval Jewry as Revealed in the Cairo Genizah**

**10 THURSDAY MORNINGS, 9:30-11:30AM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH MICHAEL RAILEANU  
APRIL 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26  
\$360 INCLUDES E-BOOK /MELTON PAPER BOOK EXTRA**

Discover an exotic era in Jewish history, revealing the inner thoughts of real people through the Cairo Genizah, a collection of 400,000 worn text fragments and documents buried for centuries. Interpreting evidence yields new insights into the daily interactions and behaviors of Jewish families living along the Mediterranean more than 1,000 years ago – and how similar they are to our own family dynamics, business ventures and communal concerns today.

Join us for a historical journey of intrigue and adventure!



# Discover, Explore, Debate.

**FOR THOSE SEEKING A MORE MEANINGFUL  
JEWISH LIFE, NO MATTER YOUR AGE OR  
BACKGROUND.**



**Three Jewish  
Philosophers:  
Philo, Saadya  
Gaon, and  
Yehuda HaLevi**

**10 THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-8:30 PM  
VIA ZOOM / WITH MICHAEL RAILEANU  
APRIL 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26  
\$340**

This course will bring together selections from the most important works by three Jewish philosophers of the Middle Ages. All students of Jewish thought should be familiar with these seminal writers: Philo, the leading writer of the Hellenistic Jewish community of Alexandria, Egypt; Saadya Gaon, known for his works on Hebrew linguistics, halakha, and Jewish philosophy; and Yehuda HaLevi, who is considered one of the greatest Hebrew poets, celebrated both for his secular and religious poems, many of which appear in our present-day liturgy. His most famous philosophical work is the Kuzari. **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. This does not apply to courses designed by local faculty.**

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<http://tec.shulcloud.com/form/melton-registrations-2024-2025-spring>

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

**Discover this unique, welcoming interactive experience. Subsidies are available to assist interested learners. 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](mailto:pamela@templeetzchaim.org)**

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

MELTON LEARNING ENGAGES YOU IN THE LIFE-ENHANCING STUDY  
OF JEWISH TEXTS AND RELEVANT IDEAS.  
OUR ACCESSIBLE APPROACH PROMOTES OPEN DIALOGUE AND NURTURES A DEEPENING  
OF JEWISH IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY.