



*Ma'ayan*, the Hebrew word for wellspring, recalls the lyrical metaphor of Torah as the spring from which knowledge flows.

An award-winning community-based program, Ma'ayan provides women in the Greater Boston area with a setting for intensive text study. Ma'ayan fosters spiritual and intellectual growth through serious and respectful engagement with the texts of Jewish tradition.



P.O. Box 254, Newton MA 02464  
617.581.6831  
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www.maayan.org

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**Ma'ayan gratefully acknowledges our hosts:**

Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel 561 Ward Street Newton, MA 02459	Striar Hebrew Academy of Sharon 100 Ames Street Sharon, MA 02067
Congregation Kadimah-Toras Moshe 113 Washington Street Brighton, MA 02135	Young Israel of Brookline 62 Green Street Brookline, MA 02446
Congregation Shaarei Tefillah 35 Morseland Avenue 2 Newton, MA 02459	Young Israel of Sharon 100 Ames Street Sharon, MA 02067

*Ma'ayan Spring 2010*

# Jewish Heroines Through the Ages: MaTaN's Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program

*The MaTaN Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program transforms girls' perspective of becoming a Bat Mitzvah and entering Jewish womanhood by exploring a variety of role-models, offering young women not one but many paradigms of the "ideal" Jewish woman. The Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program allows young women and their mothers to navigate this life-passage together and encourages Bat Mitzvah girls to build their adult identities rooted in Jewish sources.*

- Ten two-hour sessions delving into the lives of Jewish heroines, from the matriarchs to modern-day leaders, for Bat Mitzvah-aged girls (11-13) and their mothers.
- A fun-filled, hands-on way for mothers and daughters to explore a young woman's entry into Jewish adulthood.
- A unique opportunity for mothers to spend focused, relaxed, and meaningful time engaged with their daughters as they prepare for the Bat Mitzvah.
- Each session includes text study and an artistic component, engaging mother and daughter experientially through drama, art, and music.
- Tuition, including all materials, is \$250 for each mother-daughter pair. Need-based scholarships are available through the Amy Kahan Memorial Scholarship fund. Please call 617.581.6831 or email [director@maayan.org](mailto:director@maayan.org) for more information.

## Spring 2010 Session

Teacher: Sabrina Burger

Sundays, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

January 24, 31; February 7, 21; March 7, 14, 21; April 11, 18, 25\*

Location: Young Israel of Sharon

100 Ames Street, Sharon Mass.

\* Dates/times are subject to change with notice.

**To register, please fill out the registration form and return it to our office with your payment made out to Ma'ayan.**

*This program was created by MaTaN, the Sadie Rennert Women's Institute for Torah Studies in Jerusalem, and adopted by communities across North American with more than 4,000 participants and growing!*

Ma'ayan Spring 2010

# Eruim—Special Learning Events

PROFESSOR ISAAC GOTTLIEB  
How is the Torah Arranged?  
The Meaning of Biblical Order

February 7

When events in the Torah seem out of order, the Midrash often responds by saying *en muqdam ume'uchar ba-Torah*—the order of the Torah is not always chronological. Sometimes, however, our Sages sought to explain the relationships between sections by adding to or connecting the events and deriving a moral lesson. Moving in the direction of the *peshat* (straightforward meaning), medieval Jewish exegetes such as Rashi, ibn Ezra, and Nahmanides tried to explain biblical arrangement of both narratives and law through thematic, associative, or literary links. Their attempts resulted in new ideas about the ordering of the Torah. This text-study will consider the changing views of biblical order and its significance from the Talmud through the medieval commentaries.

Sunday, February 7

8:00 PM

Private home; RSVP for location

Open to men and women

\$18

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SAVE THE DATE:

**YOM IYUN—A DAY OF STUDY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

***Ki Mitzion Tetzei Torah***

Teachers & Torah on the Land of Israel

April 18

TO GET INVOLVED WITH PLANNING THIS EVENT, LEARN ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, LEAD A SESSION, OR SUGGEST A SPEAKER, PLEASE EMAIL [DIRECTOR@MAAYAN.ORG](mailto:DIRECTOR@MAAYAN.ORG).

*We look forward to learning with you!*

Ma'ayan Spring 2010  
PREPARE FOR THE *REGALIM*  
Holiday Workshops

Pesach

**The Pesach Ushpizin**

Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz

Level: All

The Seder calls on us to use our imagination and creativity in making the story of Pesach come to life. Borrowing from the holiday of Sukkot, in this class we will explore the personalities and biographies of several “guests” or *ushpizin* whose presence at the Seder table will greatly enhance our Pesach experience. Through midrashic and halakhic sources, we will study the Rabbinic biographies of three characters: *Eliyahu ha-Navi* (Elijah the Prophet), who does make an appearance at the Seder; *Yosef* (Joseph), whose absence from the Seder is notable; and *Serach bat Asher*, a relatively unknown and perhaps unexpected Pesach guest.

Sundays, 8:00 - 9:15

Two stand-alone sessions: March 14 & 21

Location: Congregation Shaarei Tefillah

Tuition: \$18 per session

Open to men and women

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**Sinai Then and Now: The Impact of Revelation**

Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg

Level: All

In anticipation of *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, the traditional anniversary of God's revelation at Sinai on Shavuot, this two-part series will explore the history and theology of revelation. We will consider questions regarding the evolution and authority of rabbinic law, the concept of *machloket* (dispute), and Judaism's stress on Torah study as an independent value. With an emphasis on primary texts and interactive discussion, this series will help you prepare yourself for *kabbalat haTorah* (receiving the Torah) on Shavuot.

Shavuot

Sundays, 8:00 - 9:15

Two stand-alone sessions: May 9 & 16

Location: Congregation Shaarei Tefillah

Tuition: \$18 per session

Open to men and women

Ma'ayan Spring 2010

## Course Listings

Talmud

### *Kiddushin Perek Alef: Ha-Ish Mikadesh*

#### **The Marital Process**

Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg

Level: 1

Continuing from the fall, but open to newcomers, this *beit midrash* (study house) style course, will introduce participants to Talmudic thought and discourse through the prism of the Jewish wedding ceremony. As we immerse ourselves in Tractate Kiddushin, poignant questions about both the marital process and Jewish law emerge. Is the Jewish wedding ceremony merely a legal procedure—or does it account for the intimate relationship being forged? Can one be rewarded for an action performed by another—or held accountable for another's detrimental actions? Our discussions will also touch upon broader issues, such as the relationship between Biblical and Rabbinic law. With a segment of *chevrutah* (partnered) learning in each class, this course will foster independent skills, begin development of a working Aramaic lexicon, and provide an introduction to Talmudic methodology.

Mondays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

8 sessions: February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15; April 12, 19

Location: Young Israel of Brookline

Tuition: \$130

New students welcome!

Talmud

### *Ketubot Perek Vav: Metzilat Isha*

#### **Fiscal Dimensions of Matrimony**

Rabbi Avi Rockoff

Level: 3

In contrast to modern notions of romance and personal compatibility, in *halakhah* as in many societies past and present, marriage is largely a monetary arrangement. The sixth *perek* (chapter) of Tractate Ketubot covers several financial aspects of marriage, including dowries, a wife's ownership of found property and work product, and disposition of estates to widows. We will supplement our study of this *perek* by learning related *sugyot* (Talmudic discussions) in Ketubot and elsewhere, along with *poskim* (legal decisors) and *she'elot u'teshuvot* (responsa). These investigations will improve our grasp of the technical details of *ketuba* obligations, halakhic financial arrangements relating to married couples, and the implications of these laws for the institution of marriage and the relationship between husbands and wives.

Mondays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

8 sessions: February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15; April 12, 19

Location: Young Israel of Brookline

Tuition: \$130

New students welcome!

## Course Listings

### Women's Beit Midrash:

#### Sefer Shmot (Exodus) with Nehama Leibowitz

Toby Goldfisher Kaplowitz

Level: 2-3

Join us in a *beit midrash* (study-house) setting as we delve into the intricacies of the *Chumash* (the Pentateuch) using the methodology created by the renowned teacher Professor Nehama Leibowitz. Class time includes *chevrotah* (partnered) study and group discussion of Nehama's questions and answers. Toby Kaplowitz will facilitate our learning. Participants should bring a *Chumash—Sefer Shmot* (Exodus)—and Tanakh to class.

Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:30 AM

8 sessions: February 2, 9, 23; March 2, 9, 16; April 13, 20

Location: Congregation Kadimah-Toras Moshe

Tuition: \$130

New students welcome!

### Modern Israeli Poetry and the Tanakh

Professor David Jacobson

Level: All

Contemporary Israeli poets have continued the midrashic tradition of retelling biblical stories. In their poetry, they explore new ways of understanding biblical stories, even as they discover connections between the events of Ancient Israel and those of the modern State of Israel. We will read a variety of biblical stories and discuss how Israeli poets adapt those stories in their poetry. Contemporary issues explored in these poems by means of retelling biblical stories include: the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Holocaust, relations between men and women, and the search for religious faith. Students should bring a Tanakh to class. Poems in the original Hebrew and in English translation will be provided.

Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

8 sessions: January 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16

Location: Congregation Shaarei Tefillah

Tuition: \$130

### Revolutionary Rabbis:

#### Three Talmudic Sages and their Impact on Judaism

Rabbi Roy Rosenbaum

Level: All

This three-part series will focus on three great Rabbinic personalities who transformed Judaism and had a permanent impact on our religion: Hillel, Rabban Yochanan Ben Zakkai, and Rabbi Akiva. Because their innovations are so much a part of today's Judaism, we lose sight of the fact that the principles these three

Ma'ayan Spring 2010

## Course Listings

men espoused were viewed as radical in their time. Our classes will review selected halakhic (legal) and aggadic (narrative) passages of the Talmud and Midrash to chart their struggles to implement change. Selections in translation will include materials from tractates *Shabbat*, *Pesachim*, *Menachot*, *Ketubot*, *Gittin*, and *Brachot*, as well as selections from the *Midrash Rabbah* and the *Sifra*. For our discussions of the destruction of the Second Temple and Bar Kokhba, we will also make use of external sources including Josephus and Dio Cassius.

Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

3 stand-alone sessions: April 13 (Hillel), 20 (Rabban Yochanan), 27 (Rabbi Akiva)

Location: Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel

Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel

Tuition: \$18 per session

Open to men and women

### Rabbinics

#### MA'AYAN IN SHARON

#### *Shiv'im Panim LaTorah: From Pasuk (Verse) to Halakhah (Law)*

Deborah Klapper

Level 2

We all know that there are many meanings encoded in every statement in the Torah, but what are the practical implications of this multiplicity? In this class, we will examine a variety of different ways that *Chazal* (our Sages) extract details and meaning from short and seemingly inadequate legal statements in the Torah. Each class meeting, we will look at examples of a different genre of *midrash halakhah*, examining the principles through which *Chazal* unzip the meaning of the Torah and how they use these principles to discover the *halakhah*. Texts will be provided in original and translation, but a full comprehension of the material will be easiest for those with some Hebrew.

Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

6 Sessions: January 26; February 2, 9, 23; March 2, 9

Location: Striar Hebrew Academy of Sharon

Tuition: \$100

### Rabbinics

#### *Teshuvot (Responsa) that Changed the World*

Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz

Level: All

The study of Responsa literature opens a fascinating window into the history and development of *halakhah* (Jewish law) and the sociology of the Jewish community. It also provides students a unique perspective on leading rabbis in Jewish history. This six-week course will study modern Responsa that have had a profound impact on the contemporary Jewish community. Among others, we will consider Responsa that address the interplay between *halakhah* and secular law,

## Ma'ayan Spring 2010

# Course Listings

the inclusion of non-observant Jews in communal life, the status of women, and co-education. Our studies will include Responsa written by Rabbi Moshe Feinstein ז"ל, Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, Rabbi Yechiel Yaakov Weinberg (the *Sridei Eish*) ז"ל and others.

Wednesdays, 8:00 - 9:15 PM

6 Sessions: January 27, February 10, 24; March 3, 10, 17

Location: TBA (location will be emailed to registrants and listed on our website)

Tuition: \$100

### “There Never Again Arose in Israel:” The Arc of Moshe’s Leadership

Karyn Spero

Level: All

This course will analyze Moshe’s leadership as it develops over the course of his years leading the Israelites through the desert. Examining parallel narratives in *Sefer Shmot* (Exodus) and *Sefer Bamidbar* (Numbers), we will explore changes both in the people’s attitude toward Moshe’s authority and in his own assessment of his leadership. Whereas *Shmot* emphasizes the people’s reliance on Moshe and their acceptance of his instruction, *Bamidbar* presents a more assertive nation in the stories of Tzefafhad’s daughters’ initiative and Korah, Datan and Aviram’s challenges to Moshe’s authority. Although his personal exclusion from the land of Israel will remain a tragic mystery, we will aim to reach an understanding of why Moshe’s tenure as leader could last only as long as the sojourn in the desert.

Thursdays, 10:15 - 11: 30 AM

8 Sessions: February 4, 11, 25; March 4, 11, 18; April 15, 22

Location: Young Israel of Brookline

Tuition: \$130

Chumash

## Our Faculty

**Sabrina Burger** received her B.A. in English literature and linguistics from Hebrew University. She studied advanced rabbinic texts and Hasidic philosophy at the Nishmat Center for Advanced Torah Studies and Midreshet Bat Ayin. She has taught adults in the Boston area through CJP, Hebrew College, and other organizations.

**Isaac Gottlieb, Ph.D.**, is a Senior Lecturer in the Bible Department at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, where he teaches medieval Bible exegesis. He is also a member of the Institute for the History of Jewish Bible Research. He is the author of *Order In the Bible: The Arrangement of the Torah in Rabbinic and Medieval Jewish Commentary*, and he co-authored *The Bible in Rabbinic Interpretation: Hosea*.

## Our Faculty

**David Jacobson, Ph.D.**, is Professor of Judaic Studies and Director of the Program in Judaic Studies at Brown University. Dr. Jacobson received his B.A. from the University of Chicago, his B.J.Ed. from Hebrew College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from UCLA. His publications include: *Modern Midrash: The Retelling of Traditional Jewish Narratives by Twentieth-Century Hebrew Writers* (1987); *Does David Still Play Before You?: Israeli Poetry and the Bible* (1997); and *Creator, Are You Listening?: Israeli Poets on God and Prayer* (2007).

**Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz** serves as the Co-Director of the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at Brandeis University and as Advisor to the Brandeis Orthodox Organization. Rabbi Kaplowitz received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University. Rabbi Kaplowitz served as the rabbinic intern at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton. He has also taught adult education classes at the JCC in Manhattan.

**Toby Goldfisher Kaplowitz** serves as the Co-Director of the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at Brandeis University. A graduate of the Graduate Program for Women in Advanced Talmudic Studies at Yeshiva University, she holds an MS.Ed from Bank Street College of Education, and a B.A. from Stern College for Women. This will be her second semester facilitating the Women's Beit Midrash.

**Deborah Klapper** holds an A.B. from Harvard College in Near Eastern Languages and a Scholars' Circle certificate from the Drisha Institute. She teaches Rabbinic Literature at Gann Academy and has taught adults in a variety of settings.

**Rabbi Dr. Avi Rockoff** received his B.A. from Yeshiva University, his M.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Pirchei Shoshanim in Jerusalem. Over the past 26 years, he has taught classes and has both organized and led adult education programs in Newton and Brookline synagogues.

**Rabbi Roy Rosenbaum** received his ordination from the Hebrew Theological College in Skokie, Illinois and his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Political Science from the University of Chicago. He has held senior staff positions in three Jewish federations and five national Jewish organizations. He has taught adult groups in Chicago and New York, and currently teaches Talmud and Bible at Maimonides High School.

**Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg** is a first-year student at the Harvard Divinity School studying philosophy of religion and Jewish theology. He received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University and holds a B.A. in Jewish Studies from Yeshiva College and an M.S. in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education. He has served as the rabbinic intern at The Jewish Center and taught at NYU's Hillel.

**Karyn Spero** is pursuing her M.A. in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. A graduate of Stern College, she spent three years studying at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, and has taught Tanakh at Maimonides School and in the Women's Beit Midrash of the Torah MiTzion Kollel in Cleveland.

# Ma'ayan Spring 2010

## Registration

Please check your selections

### Sunday:

- \_\_\_\_ MaTaN Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program in Sharon \$250
- \_\_\_\_ **Pesach:** *The Pesach Ushpizin*, Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz \$18/session \$\_\_\_\_  
I plan to attend \_\_\_\_ 3/14 \_\_\_\_ 3/21
- \_\_\_\_ **Shavuot:** *Sinai Then and Now*, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg \$18/session \$\_\_\_\_  
I plan to attend \_\_\_\_ 5/9 \_\_\_\_ 5/16
- \_\_\_\_ *The Meaning of Biblical Order*, Professor Isaac Gottlieb \$18

### Monday:

- \_\_\_\_ *Talmud: The Marital Process*, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg \$130
- \_\_\_\_ *Talmud: The Fiscal Dimensions of Matrimony*, Rabbi Avi Rockoff \$130

### Tuesday:

- \_\_\_\_ *Women's Beit Midrash*, Toby Kaplowitz \$130
- \_\_\_\_ *MA'AYAN IN SHARON: Midrash Halakhah*, Deborah Klapper \$100
- \_\_\_\_ *Modern Israeli Poetry and the Tanakh*, Professor David Jacobson \$130
- \_\_\_\_ *Revolutionary Rabbis*, Rabbi Roy Rosenbaum \$18/session \$\_\_\_\_  
I plan to attend \_\_\_\_ 4/13 (Hillel) \_\_\_\_ 4/20 (Rabban Yochanan) \_\_\_\_ 4/27 (Rabbi Akiva)

### Wednesday:

- \_\_\_\_ *Teshuvot that Changed the World*, Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz \$100

### Thursday:

- \_\_\_\_ *The Arc of Moshe's Leadership*, Karyn Spero \$130

Tuition subtotal \$\_\_\_\_\_

Tax-deductible donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Chevrutah discount (25% off tuition)\*\* \$\_\_\_\_\_

Student discount (50% off tuition for full-time students) \$\_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*Register with a friend who has not taken a Ma'ayan class in the past 5 years (if ever) and you both receive 25% off tuition for that class. Include information on reverse.

Please complete both sides and return with your payment to  
Ma'ayan, P.O. Box 254, Newton, MA, 02464

# Registration



## Personal Information

Name(s):

Address:

Phone: (H)

(C)

Email:

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive email announcements from Ma'ayan.

## Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program Information

Daughter's first name

Daughter's last name

Daughter's Hebrew name

Date of birth

School attending

Grade

Mother's first name

Mother's last name

Mother's Hebrew name

## Scholarship & Discount Information

Student discount: I am a student at: \_\_\_\_\_

Chavrutah discount: Both my chevrutah \_\_\_\_\_

and I will receive 25% off tuition for the following course: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional need-based scholarships are available, and all requests are confidential. To request a scholarship, email Roselyn Farren, Program Director, at [director@maayan.org](mailto:director@maayan.org).