

National Havurah Committee SUMMER INSTITUTE 2010
August 2-8, 2010
Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH
Freedom For All

Welcome to the NHC Summer Institute!

The National Havurah Committee (NHC) is a network of diverse individuals and communities dedicated to Jewish living and learning, community building, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Since the 1970s, the NHC Summer Institute has been bringing together Jews from across North America to envision a joyful grassroots Judaism and provide the tools to help them create empowered Jewish lives and communities. The NHC is a nondenominational, multigenerational, egalitarian, and volunteer-run organization.

The NHC's flagship program, the week-long Summer Institute, is a unique opportunity for serious study, moving prayer, spirited conversation, late-night jam sessions, singing, dancing, swimming, meditation, and hiking – all in the company of more than 300 people from a wide range of backgrounds. Each year, participants leave the Institute reinvigorated and excited to return to their home communities to share new ideas, skills, and experiences.

Our 2010 theme is **D'ror Yikra: Freedom for All** from the popular Shabbas zemer. This summer, join us in thinking about the ways in which we are each free and fettered. How can we work to bring the freedom we enjoy to all people? In our lives as Jews, what do we accept as limits and what chafes, making us long for freedom? And particularly in a pluralistic setting, how do we relate to the different ideas of freedom that our friends and community members have? Together, we'll spend the week contemplating these issues and more, and hopefully emerge with a bit more freedom than we entered.

At the Summer Institute, every teacher is also a student and every student is a teacher. People who are usually called "rabbi" or "professor" throughout the year go by their first names here. And people who rarely take active leadership roles in their communities discover that they, too, can teach and contribute to the community. We look forward to creating community with you at this year's NHC Summer Institute!

Our Community

One of the NHC Summer Institute's greatest strengths is the diversity of its participants. We are musicians, doctors, students, furniture makers, retirees, Jewish professionals, homemakers, teachers, activists, and just about everything else. At the 2010 Summer Institute, the youngest participant was a newborn, and our oldest was over 80, with many participants from all age groups in between. The NHC Summer Institute includes Jews from birth, Jews by choice, people committed to both traditional and non-traditional Jewish practice, non-Jews, and people exploring Judaism. NHC Summer Institute participants have a variety of identities including LGBTQ and straight; people of color, Sephardi, Mizrachi and Ashkenazi; urban, rural, and suburban; Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform, Renewal, secular, and Jewish without labels. NHC Summer Institute participants also have a variety of Jewish learning backgrounds, from those with no formal Jewish education to those with Ph.D.s in Talmud. The dynamic process of exploring together what Judaism and Jewishness means in our lives is a highlight of the Summer Institute.

A Day at the Institute:

- Take morning and afternoon classes with dynamic teachers and engaged classmates
- Attend (or lead!) stimulating optional workshops
- Kids Camp for children ages 6 months to 12 years
- Exciting prayer, Havurah davening, text study, and yoga options every day
- Enjoy delicious, kosher vegetarian food, served cafeteria-style
- Walk, swim, hike, or work out at the fully-equipped indoor gym
- Spend free time relaxing in a beautiful natural setting
- Participate in evening programs and entertainment
- Make and renew friendships, have great conversations, laugh, think, sing, dance, and learn

A Sample Day at the NHC Summer Institute:

7:00 – Traditional Egalitarian services
7:30 – Breakfast
8:30 – Yoga
9:30 – Morning Class: Introduction to Talmud Study
11:00 – Kippah Crocheting Workshop
12:30 – Lunch
1:30 – Afternoon Class: Jewish Memoir Writing
3:00 – Building Interfaith Families Discussion
4:30 – Swim with children in the lake
5:30 – 12 Step Meeting
6:15 – Dinner at Yiddish Language Table
7:00 – Mincha / Ma'ariv prayer services
8:00 – Community program combining text study and the arts
9:00 – Klezmer Jam

Courses

At the center of the Institute are a wide array of courses offered in morning and afternoon sessions. Each course has a maximum of 20 students and is led by a teacher who is also an Institute participant, presenting material that she or he loves in an inclusive style that encourages everyone to participate. Choose from classes in traditional texts, Jewish politics, poetry, Jewish ethics, dance and singing, Judaism and world religions, and contemporary topics.

Workshops

The Institute also offers informal hour-long workshops led by Institute participants on topics of their choice. Last year's workshop topics included social justice themes of Broadway showtunes, spinning fibre for tzitzit, celebrating life transitions with henna markings, making art, greening life-cycle celebrations, singing, dancing, poetry, text study, and so much more. Participants will decide this year's topics by volunteering to teach workshops - sign up when you register for Institute or contact workshops@havurah.org.

Minyanim

Every day at the Summer Institute offers a different menu of spirited prayer options and alternatives to traditional services. There will be prayer in many styles, including daily morning services in Hebrew and English, meditative and musical, with and without instruments, and both indoors and outdoors, in addition to a Traditional Egalitarian service, as well as mincha-maariv daily. All davening is intended to be family friendly. Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to lead a service (or alternative to services) in any style. All minyanim organized and sponsored by the NHC are fully egalitarian, with equal participation regardless of gender and sexual orientation. Individual participants who wish to organize minyanim in which eligibility for leading or participation is differentiated by gender may contact the NHC office at the Summer Institute to arrange a meeting space.

Families and Children

At the Summer Institute, families with children are not only welcome, they are a priority. The Summer Institute "village" is supportive of all kinds of families, and prayer services celebrate the inclusion of children. While parents participate in Institute offerings, children ages six months to twelve years attend Kids Camp, joining their older family members at mealtimes. Parents may also participate in a special "buddy" system in which other folks share the joys and responsibilities of child care with parents during meals and other times when Kids Camp is not meeting. Evening babysitting (for a small fee payable on the Registration Form) allows parents to participate in all evening and late-night activities of the Summer Institute.

Kids Camp

Forming its own tight-knit community within the broader Institute, Kids Camp offers exciting and enriching Jewish programming for children. With morning and afternoon sessions running concurrent to Institute classes, parents can learn and explore while knowing their kids are also experiencing a vibrant, age-

appropriate learning opportunity. The camp is led by a talented staff of educators, artists, musicians, and athletes, many of whom are long-time Institute participants - this year supported by a generous grant from the Albin Family Foundation. The NHC's adult teaching faculty, Artists-in-Residence, parents, and other members of the Institute community are encouraged to participate in Kids Camp, sharing their expertise and talents with the children.

In true havurah style, the Kids Camp program is highly participatory; emphasizing relationship-building through shared experiences of art, music, sports, and a wide array of Jewish programming. For many families with young children, the Kids Camp has become a primary incentive to return year after year.

Kids Camp features:

- ☑ Daily gatherings with song, prayer, and stories
- ☑ Creative activities in art, music, and theater
- ☑ Supervised outdoor recreation
- ☑ Water play or swimming each day (weather permitting)
- ☑ Creative, developmentally appropriate Jewish learning for preschool children
- ☑ Jewish-oriented playtime for babies and toddlers
- ☑ A unique experience in Jewish community building which celebrates diversity

Please note that Kids Camp operates during scheduled class times. The camp is designed for kids from six months to twelve years old who can participate in an all-day program with a break for lunch. Children are grouped according to age and grade levels. We do our best to accommodate all children.

Celebrating Shabbat

Shabbat is the culmination of the Summer Institute. The intellectual, creative, and spiritual excitement of the week's courses, the intense Jewish living experience, and our new and renewed friendships combine to lead to a special, joyful Shabbat. Before Shabbat starts, participants build an *eruv* (boundary) and make other Shabbat preparations. The entire community gathers to welcome Shabbat with a rousing *kabbalat Shabbat* and evening service, followed by a festive dinner and opportunities for text study, storytelling, poetry reading, and singing late into the night. A number of different minyanim meet on Saturday morning, including a special Family Shabbat Service, after which the community gathers for lunch, further study and recreational activities, and *seudah shelishit* (the third Shabbat meal). Shabbat ends on a high note with a beautiful *havdalah* (end-of-Shabbat ceremony) under the stars.

Shabbat Participants

Can't join us for the whole week? Have friends or family members who would like to join you for Shabbat? All are welcome to join the Institute community for a beautiful, restful, meaningful Shabbat in the mountains. Weekday classes will be over, but there are a number of special programs planned just for the weekend. Programming on Shabbat will include a variety of Shabbat-friendly options including special workshops, text study, spirited singing, discussion groups, hikes, pick-up sports, a board game bonanza, and more. Shabbat guests should plan to arrive on Friday, August 6, between 1:30 and 3:15pm. Please see the fee schedule for Shabbat-only registration.

Teen Program

Every year, teenagers at the Institute build a community that radiates into the teens' lives through the rest of the year. This community provides a home base and an inclusive group of friends for teen participants, most of whom attend with their families. Designated adult advisors are available to teenagers at all times for checking in and trouble-shooting, and to help organize group projects, such as the traditional community-wide free clothing swap led by teens, and constructing the community's *eruv* for Shabbat. Teens may take classes with adults, or work in the Children's Camp or the Institute office for a reduction in registration fees. Please inquire for details.

Everett Fellowship for Young Adults

A generous grant from the Edith and Henry Everett Philanthropic Fund underwrites the Everett Fellows Program for young adults who have demonstrated their potential to be advocates for Jewish causes and who are actively engaged in defining their participation in the Jewish community. Fellows participate in the full Summer Institute programming and in four workshops designed specifically for them, including an opportunity to discuss their personal Jewish journeys. In addition, each Everett Fellow will be paired with a mentor, a returning Institute participant who shares similar interests and can support the Fellow in getting the most out of the Institute.

Everett Fellows receive a scholarship for tuition, room, and board, and are expected to pay only for registration and dues (\$120). To apply for an Everett fellowship, you must be 22 through 32 years of age, interested in exploring havurah Judaism, and willing to participate fully in the Summer Institute. Preference is given to first time Institute attendees and previously-declined qualified Everett applicants.

Application

Please email your application and letters of recommendation to everettfellows@havurah.org by May 2, 2010. Include your name, complete postal address, day and evening phone numbers, email address, age, and educational background and/or occupation. In addition, please provide brief answers to the following questions in 1-2 pages:

1. What are you looking for in a Jewish community? (List some characteristics. This need not be a definitive list.)
2. What kind of role have you played in Jewish communities thus far and what kind of role do you see yourself playing in the future?
3. What do you hope to gain from the Institute? What do you expect to bring?
4. Please list 1-3 leadership experiences that you consider significant (name of organization, title and short description of your role, and dates). These experiences need not be in Jewish community.

A complete Everett Fellowship application also includes:

- Two letters of recommendation (may be sent by separate email or by postal mail to the NHC office, e-mail preferred). Please ask your recommenders to focus on your leadership and community-building skills.
- A completed NHC Summer Institute registration, submitted online, including payment information to cover fees. Your payment will not be processed unless you are offered and accept the Fellowship.

Hollander Social Justice Fellowship

Do you have a social justice cause you are passionate about and want to pursue with the NHC Summer Institute community? Apply for the Hollander Social Justice Fellowship. You will receive a \$400 scholarship towards Institute fees and up to \$100 for materials or preparation, in exchange for planning social justice oriented programming for the NHC Summer Institute community. Your proposal needs to include at least three hours of programming on a relevant and nonpartisan social justice issue. This programming could consist of a daytime workshop (or series of workshops), an evening community-wide program, Kids Camp or Everett programs, and/or a Shabbat program. We expect that the strongest applications will come from people with at least three to five years of professional or volunteer experience in their area. Preference will be given to people involved in an ongoing social justice campaign (or launching a campaign) who wish to bring it to the NHC Summer Institute community.

Application

Submit a completed NHC Summer Institute registration form and deposit online. (Deposit is refundable if your application is not selected.) In addition, submit to hollanderfellow@havurah.org by May 1, 2010 brief answers to the following questions in 2-3 pages:

- What are your project's goals?
- How will the project be carried out (programming, methods, resources you will need)? Note that your plan needs to include at least three hours of programming.
- How can the issue be brought back to participants' home communities? How is your project relevant to the NHC Summer Institute community?
- What resources/knowledge/skills do you bring to this project that will make it effective?
- What is your experience or background (professional or volunteer) with the social justice issue your project will address?
- Give an example of a successful social justice project you have worked on and describe your role was in helping make it successful.

Social Justice Programming

Social justice is a core value for the NHC Summer Institute community, manifested in the ways in which we interact with each other, our commitment to egalitarianism, our programming, and even the fair trade coffee and tea we serve in the dining hall and the sweatshop-free apparel we sell. In addition to the Hollander Social Justice Fellow's programming, this year's Summer Institute will include a family social justice program in which we explore our decision-making processes around ethical issues and how to take action on a variety of issues that affect our everyday lives.

Building and Sustaining Havurot and Minyanim

Many Summer Institute attendees are members of independent or synagogue-based havurot or minyanim in their home communities. NHC Summer Institute community members have a wealth of experience and knowledge about creating and supporting grassroots Jewish activity, and we want to focus our energies this year on helping each other to build more vibrant and fulfilling communities during the rest of the year.

Franklin Pierce University

Franklin Pierce University is located among the beautiful forests, lakes, and mountains of southern New Hampshire. The campus features ample conference facilities with free internet access, a variety of comfortable housing choices, and a fitness center. Mt. Monadnock and the White Mountains overlook the grounds, which also contain walking trails and a lake for swimming and boating.

Accessibility

Almost all buildings on the Franklin Pierce campus are wheelchair-accessible. Accessible accommodations close to the classroom buildings and dining hall are available upon request. If you are physically disabled, please let us know when you register so we can make sure that your classes and housing are in accessible buildings. Some participants who have difficulty walking around campus drive between buildings by car and others use the golf carts available for a small fee, subsidized by the NHC. Accessibility tours will be offered the first day of the Summer Institute and as needed for Shabbat guests.

Food

Each day features three delicious, kosher, vegetarian meals and plenty of evening snacks. There are always *pareve*/vegan options and an abundance of healthy, tasty choices. The kitchen and dining hall are under the strict supervision of a *mashgiach* (supervisor), who also participates in the Institute. If you have special food needs or food allergies/sensitivities, please help us meet your needs by letting us know on the registration form and providing a detailed explanation by June 15. All adult housing options also include refrigerators and kitchens (although no cookware, silverware, dishes, or glasses are provided). You may bring food from home or outside into your room, but not into the dining hall. There is a grocery store less than 1 mile from Franklin Pierce. Please call or email the NHC office for more information.

Housing

Four comfortable, modern housing options are available. All accommodations have parking, washing machines, and dryers nearby. Please indicate your housing preference on the registration form.

The **suites** in the center of campus are air-conditioned and accessible to those with special mobility needs. Each suite has six bedrooms with two twin beds per room, one bathroom with three showers and sinks, a living room, and a kitchenette with refrigerator and microwave oven. Suites are generally designated for families with children under the age of 10 (to facilitate babysitting) and people with special mobility needs. Washing machines and dryers are free.

The **apartments** are located near the suites. Each apartment has two bedrooms with two twin beds per room, 1.5 baths, a living room, and a kitchen with refrigerator, stove, and dining area. The apartments do not have air-conditioning; however, the mountain climate usually makes air-conditioning unnecessary at night.

The **townhouses** are next to the lake, a 7 to 10 minute walk to the dining hall and classrooms. There is a wheelchair-accessible studio apartment on the first floor, while the second and third floors each contain three bedrooms with two twin beds each, three full bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living room area. The townhouses are air-conditioned. The basement of each townhouse contains a coin-operated washer and dryer.

Young adults and teens are housed in traditional **dormitories** with two beds per room and a communal bathroom. Typical dormitory rooms do not have air conditioning.

Commuting and Camping

Anyone who lives or is staying near the campus can participate at a reduced cost by registering as a commuter. Commuter registration includes all meals and full participation in all programs. There are numerous campsites nearby if you would like to take advantage of our commuter rate.

Transportation and Timing

Franklin Pierce University is located off Route 119 in Rindge, NH, just north of the Massachusetts border. Approximate driving time is 4.5 hours from New York City and 90 minutes from Boston. The closest airports are in Manchester, NH, Albany, NY, and Boston, MA. Ride-share arrangements will be provided once you register. On Monday, August 3, check-in starts at 1:30pm. Programming begins at 3:45pm, and dinner is served that evening. Courses meet for the first time on Tuesday morning. The closing program on Sunday, August 9, ends around 10:30am and the Institute concludes at 11:30am. Everyone is expected to check out promptly on Sunday.

Scholarships and Travel Grants

The NHC strives to make the Summer Institute accessible to all who want to participate; our goal is that no one will be unable to participate in the Summer Institute for financial reasons. To apply for a scholarship, follow the instructions below, and indicate on the Registration Form the amount of the full registration fees that you are able to pay. The application deadline for the first round of support is May 3, after which point support will be distributed on a rolling basis, depending on available funds.

The NHC asks that applicants assess their own ability to pay as honestly and accurately as possible. The NHC recognizes that financial matters can be very sensitive, and pledges that each applicant's financial information will remain confidential, shared only with the members of the scholarship committee.

If you can afford to pay the full price of Institute, please do so. If you can't afford the full price, please pay as much as you can. And if you are able to make a tax-deductible contribution toward the scholarship fund, please do that, too, so that everyone who wants to attend has the opportunity to do so.

Application

If you are applying for a scholarship or travel grant, please include a deposit of at least \$300 per person, and register online by May 3, completing the section on scholarships on your registration form. If you are registering by mail, send answers to the following questions along with your registration to the NHC office:

- 1) How much your NHC Summer Institute registration fees would be at full rates and how much of this you (and your family, if applicable) can afford to pay.
- 2) Any additional details or circumstances you feel are relevant, including the cost of travel, if applicable.

Shortly after May 1, you will be informed whether your application has been approved. All balances are due by June 1. The deposit is completely refundable if your request is not approved and you are unable to attend. Some additional support may be available after May 1, depending on the availability of funds.

It may be possible to secure financial help to attend the Institute from other sources. Some synagogue members have secured assistance from their rabbi's discretionary fund; some Jewish educators have received support as a form of professional development; and some college students have obtained financial help from Hillel or chaplain conference funds. Residents of Western Massachusetts should check out the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (www.hgf.org) for scholarship funds for teens. Jewish federations may have similar funds for children's participation in Kids Camp. Before concluding that you can't afford to join us, research your resources — and ask!

Work-Study Assistance

A limited number of work-study positions are available in one of three areas: the Summer Institute office, the children's camp, or kashrut supervision. In exchange for at least 14 hours of work over the course of the week, participants can attend the Institute for \$400 plus NHC dues, and participate fully in the rest of the program. To apply for a work-study position, check www.havurah.org to see the open positions and call or email the Institute office (215-248-1335) to apply. All requests are confidential and must be submitted by June 30, 2010.

NHC Online

Check out the NHC's website at www.havurah.org for the online Summer Institute 2010 Registration Form, Institute information (such as a ride board), and updates on courses and programs. All Institute registrants are automatically subscribed to *nhc-announce*, a low volume email list for announcements from the NHC related to its programs. The NHC also offers two online discussion groups: *nhc-havurah*, for NHC and havurah-related issues, and *nhc-discuss*, an open discussion forum on topics of interest to members of the NHC community.

Cancellation Policy and Cancellation Insurance

Cancellation insurance enables you to receive a partial refund in the event that you must cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. Register by April 16 for free Cancellation Insurance or register after April 1 for Cancellation Insurance, priced as follows: \$42 for an adult, \$32 for a commuter adult, \$15 for a Shabbat-only adult, \$11 for a child, and \$6 for a Shabbat-only child. If you have cancellation insurance and must cancel on or before August 1, you will receive a refund of your Institute fees minus a \$35 administrative fee per person. If you cancel after August 1, you will receive a refund of your Institute fees minus a \$300 administrative fee per person. If you do not purchase cancellation insurance at the time that you register, and need to cancel, refunds will be allocated as follows:

- Cancel on or before May 31: Institute fees refunded minus a \$75 administrative fee per person.
- Cancel between June 1 and July 13: Institute fees refunded minus a \$150 administrative fee per person.
- Cancel between July 14 and July 28: Institute fees refunded minus a \$225 administrative fee per person.
- Cancel on or after July 29, "no show" on site, or leave early — No fees refunded.

Supplemental fees for services arranged by the NHC (housing, golf-cart, and babysitting) will be refunded in full only if the NHC can cancel them without incurring a penalty. Membership dues are non-refundable and tax deductible. Administrative fees retained by the NHC may be considered a tax-deductible contribution.

Courses

At the center of the Institute are a wide array of courses offered in morning and afternoon sessions. Each course has a maximum of 20 students and is led by a teacher who is also an Institute participant, presenting material that she or he loves in an inclusive style that encourages everyone to participate. Choose from classes in traditional texts, Jewish politics, poetry, Jewish ethics, dance and singing, Judaism and world religions, and contemporary topics.

Extended Format courses meet during the regularly scheduled course time and the adjacent workshop time.

The following list is a key to the course categories' abbreviations found after each description:

A&L = Arts and Literature

S&RL = Spiritual and Religious Life

H&C = History and Culture

IT = Intermediate Text

TE = Text for Everyone

AT = Advanced Text

EX = Extended Format

CI = Contemporary Issues

M01 - The Art of Sephardic Music

Samuel Asher, Poretsky Artist in Residence

Sephardim have a rich, diverse musical heritage spanning several centuries, three continents, and dozens of cultures from Spain to Iran, from the Crimea to Arabia. *Sephardic* music is thriving in Israel today; however, *Sephardic* music is not commonly sung in America, except for a few notable performers, such as Ofra Haza (ז"ל) and a few notable melodies, such as *Los Bilbilicos*. This course will explore the riches of Oriental Jewish music in Ladino and Hebrew, new and old. We will learn music, musical styles, and liturgical versus secular pieces. We will also play melodic and percussive instruments and make new music. Expect lively interaction and participation. Course will be taught in English. Music will be in Hebrew, Ladino, and English. Translations will be provided for all non-English material. Teacher will bring a collection of drums and other musical instruments for course participants' use. A&L, H&C, EF.

Samuel Asher has done extensive work in reviving traditional Sephardic music as well as developing new music for Jewish liturgy. He has taught many classes and led several workshops on music, prayer, and interfaith dialog. Educated at the Eastman School of Music, Samuel has officiated as Cantor for Temple Beth David in Rochester, NY for the last 17 years, and was the first Artist in Residence for the Partnership program in Modi'in, Israel in 2005. Also comfortable with jazz, gospel, and folk music, Samuel lives in Rochester with his wife of 28 years; they have 3 grown children.

M03 - Murder or Mitzvah: the Ethics of Animals as Food

Ellie Ash and Annie Bass

Kashrut, the corps of *mitzvot* on how and what we eat, is inescapable in Jewish life. It is simultaneously divisive, archaic, and central to Jewish identity and morality. *Kashrut* elevates our animal need for sustenance by connecting it with how we treat the animals that we eat. We will study Jewish sources across time about the theology, ethics, and sociology of meat-eating. Through these texts we will refine our ethical lens as we examine relevant topics in *Masechet Hullin*, the section of the Talmud dedicated to non-sacrificial slaughter. IT, S&RL.

Ellie Ash and Annie Bass are a hevruta born at the NHC Summer Institute. They have been studying Mishna Hullin by phone for the past two years. They are undergraduate students at Stanford and Cornell universities, respectively.

M05 - How to Write a Social Justice D'var Torah that's not a Dud

Guy Izhak Austrian

For those wanting to “cry freedom” to a Jewish audience, the *d’var Torah* is a key opportunity. But who hasn’t groaned through a predictable *d’var Torah* that hits an audience on the head with a self-righteous message while distorting or disregarding the text? We’ll learn how to balance moral clarity with nuance; how to engage and challenge the Torah text with love and respect; and how to meet and move an audience. Each participant will work independently on a *d’var Torah*, with the support of the group. Some will share their *divrei Torah* with an NHC audience at the end of the Institute. CI, S&RL, TE.

Guy Izhak Austrian writes for the American Jewish World Service’s weekly Torah commentary, Dvar Tzedek, and has delivered divrei Torah in front of audiences as large as 2,000 people. Formerly a community organizer with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and Congregation B’nai Jeshurun, he is now a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He lives with his life partner, Jill Jacobs, and their daughter Lior.

M07 - The Glass is Half Jewish: Mixed Heritage, Conversion, and Intermarriage **Rebecca Ennen**

Mixed-heritage Jews are the present and future of the Jewish community. Gentiles are inextricably woven into our communities and personal heritages. Does this trend represent enrichment or watering-down? In the past as today, Jews have been committed to maintaining our distinctiveness, even as we adopted ideas and practices from neighboring cultures. How have Jews created, transformed, and deconstructed the boundaries between others and ourselves? Is there any such thing as half-Jewish? In search of new ways of understanding mixed heritage, conversion, and interfaith families, we will study a wide range of traditional, contemporary, autobiographical, theoretical, and ethnographic texts. We will share personal reflections on mixed ethnicity, faith, culture, and lifestyle. CI, IT.

Rebecca Ennen is the complicated child of a complicated Jewish-Catholic union. As a dialogue facilitator for Jewish Dialogue Group in Philadelphia, she helps Jews engage gracefully in thorny conversations. Rebecca is a 2008 and 2009-10 Yeshivat Hadar Fellow, where she studied traditional Jewish sources on peoplehood, conversion, and intermarriage. She co-created a daylong workshop for mixed heritage Jews, including children of intermarriage and converts, in March 2009.

M09 - Sixty Years of Israeli Poetry Between War and Peace **Hanoch Guy**

“Sixty Years of Israeli Poetry Between War and Peace” examines the deepest recesses of the Israeli psyche. From the elation of the victory of 1948 and the founding of the state sprang hope for peace and the realization that more wars will have to be fought and terrorism will have to end. We will follow three generations of soul-searching agonized poets who grapple with personal existence and the state’s existence through joy, hardship and perseverance. During the eighties and nineties, poetry of protest and dissent expressed exhaustion and despair because of nonstop cycles of violence and opposition to west bank occupation. We hope to read from the works of A.Z.Greenberg, Amichai, Ravikovitz, Alterman, Rubner, Sivan and Gilead. Special attention will be paid to universal war symbols and the applications of biblical motifs to modern Israel. Note: A special booklet is being prepared for the course. A&L, CI.

Hanoch Guy grew up in Israel. He is a bilingual poet, Hebrew and English. His works have appeared in Genre, Poetry Newsletter, Tracks, The International Journal of Genocide studies, Visions International, and Poetica, from whom he won an award. The Mad Poets Society gave him an award in 2007. His recent works include both Hebrew poems and English poems. He has taught at the NHC Institute chai times.

M11 - The Clash of Wills and the Will to Heal: Pediatric Ethics and Rabbinic Thought **Hillel Gray**

In contemporary bioethics, some of the most contested and difficult questions concern the bodies of children. At what age should children have more freedom over their bodies and their medical care than parents or physicians? Is it ethical for parents to arrange for a child to donate blood marrow or participate in a biomedical experiment? At what age may a child, regardless of parental wishes, refuse chemotherapy? When, if ever, should parents refuse to have their children vaccinated? Who should decide about life-support interventions for newborns *in extremis*? Would it be right for children to be genetically designed or

enhanced? Class participants will pore over *Talmudic* and medieval rabbinic law, as well as recent Orthodox, Conservative & Reform responsa that shed light on pediatric ethics. For questions not yet addressed by the rabbinate(s), we will try to chart the likely trajectories of Jewish pediatric ethics. CI, IT.

Hillel Gray is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Scholar of Bioethics and Jewish Thought at Emory Center for Ethics. He has a PhD in the History of Judaism at the University of Chicago. He is former policy director of the National Environmental Law Center and has served on the board of minyanim from both the left and right ends of Jewish life.

M13 - Should the law pierce the mountain? The role of communal narrative in Jewish law

Adam Gordon

“Let the law pierce the mountain” – this approving *Talmudic* (rabbinic) view of the role of Jewish law has a harsh ring for those, including many women and queer Jews, who have experienced *halacha* (religious law) as undermining the rocks upon which we build our lives. Some rabbis have recently written that the Jewish legal system should recognize the potential of broader communal values to trump conventional legal interpretation, drawing upon the work of American legal scholar Robert Cover. What is this narrative-based approach? How does it relate to Jewish tradition? And might it pierce mountains of its own? IT, S&RL.

Adam Gordon is a civil rights attorney at Fair Share Housing Center, a public interest law firm focused on providing affordable housing in New Jersey's most desirable communities, and a fellow at NYU Law School focusing on federal land use and affordable housing policy. He also co-founded and is the editor-in-chief of The Next American City, a quarterly magazine about the future of cities and suburbs that the New York Times calls “a subtle plan to change the world.” He is a member of Kol Tzedek, a small Reconstructionist synagogue in Philadelphia.

M15 - D'raw Yikra

Luke Jaeger

D'raw *Yikra* - and paint too. Some of us may think we "can't draw"; others may be more confident in our skills but still "stuck" in other ways. We'll free ourselves from these constraints, create a safe space for creative experimentation and use a range of texts - from the ancient prophets to classic Yiddish literature - as jumping-off points for visual exercises. There are no rules about form or content - the goal is to have fun, make a mess, and expand your definition of what is possible! A&L, Open to Teens.

Artist/filmmaker Luke Jaeger grew up in Brooklyn, NY and attended Yale University, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and Massachusetts College of Art. He and his family now live in Western Massachusetts. His animated films have been shown in festivals and theaters worldwide.

M17 - Torah Queeries: Not Your Zayde/Bubbe's Parshat Hashavua

Diane Klein

In 2009, NYU Press published *Torah Queeries*, a groundbreaking set of essays on *parshiyot hashavua* (the sections of the Torah read each week) and Jewish holidays authored by gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and otherwise self-described “queer Jews.” In this course, we will read some of these essays side by side with more “traditional” interpretations of the same texts, and familiarize ourselves with the various methodologies employed by queer interpreters of Torah. Are these queer approaches equally or even more appealing and persuasive than some traditional interpretations? Or is this politically-motivated “eisegesis,” as some critics charge – “reading in” what the reader hopes to find, rather than “exegesis,” reading out what is “actually there”? The course will culminate, at the end of the week, with all class members writing (and presenting, if desired) a queer *drash* on a few verses, an episode, or a character from the Torah. Although teenagers are welcome, parents should be aware that the material will include some very sexually explicit texts. CI, IT.

Diane Klein is a lawyer and law professor living in Berkeley, California, working in San Francisco and participating sporadically in Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Some of her legal scholarship focuses on gender and queer theory, and she thinks of herself as a 'queer heterosexual.'

M19 - What are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur All About?

Joseph G. Rosenstein

What are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur all about? Is Rosh Hashanah simply a prelude to Yom Kippur, or does the beginning of a new year have a separate existence and meaning? Is Yom Kippur simply a time when we beat our breasts, atone for our sins, and hope for divine favor? And what are the spiritual implications of these questions? In this course we will explore, through study, discussion, and guided meditation, the themes of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur liturgy, how their authors and later commentators understood these themes, and how these themes might be reflected in our own observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Our text will be the instructor's brand new *Machzor Eit Ratzon*. S&RL.

Joe Rosenstein is a founder and former chair of the NHC and of the NHC Institute. He is the author of Siddur Eit Ratzon (www.newsiddur.org) and Machzor Eit Ratzon, and a member of the Highland Park (NJ) Minyan. In real life, he is a professor of mathematics at Rutgers University whose focus is K-12 mathematics education. He and his wife Judy are blessed with five daughters, three sons-in-law, and three grandchildren.

M21 - Freedom to Love - The Song of Songs in Biblical, Rabbinic, Mystical, and Modern Perspectives.

Jonah Chanan Steinberg

The biblical *Song of Songs* is a vivid and sensual book that challenges ancient boundaries and defies traditional constraints. The interpretive tradition around the Song of Songs has enabled the book to be a mainstay of Jewish tradition for centuries. In these four sessions, incorporating a rich array of sources, we will explore the *Song of Songs* in its biblical context; in classical rabbinic interpretations; in the Jewish mystical tradition; and in present-day readings. A&L, H&C, S&RL, TE, EX.

Rabbi Jonah Chanan Steinberg, PhD. is an Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. Jonah has received the New Scholar Award from the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. He is a Canadian who grew up in Vienna, Austria - the best thing about which was Italy.

M23 - A Post-Modern Haredi Philosopher? The Thought of Rav Yitzhak Hutner

Miriam-Simma Walfish

Perhaps one of the most under-appreciated 20th century Jewish thinkers, R. Yitzhak Hutner served as the rosh yeshiva (dean) of Yeshivas Chayim Berlin. His sermons, artfully crafted in a style created in the classical Lithuanian *yeshivot*, consider such questions as the religious meaning of debate, different models of relationship, and the sacrality of human beings. We will study these sermons, appreciating not only their artistry, but also considering the possibly radical messages contained in such an unexpected place.

Miriam-Simma Walfish teaches Talmud at Yeshivat Hadar and at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School in New York. A graduate of the Pardes Educators' Program, through which she studied in the Advanced Talmud track at Pardes and received an M.A. in Jewish Education at Hebrew University, she has also studied at Drisha, the Northwoods Kollel, and Midreshet Ein ha-Netziv. She has taught in a variety of settings, including the Hadar Beit Midrash, the Northwoods Kollel, and here at the Havurah Institute. AT.

M25 - The Exodus-Narrative: Text and Interpretations

Aryeh Wineman

The biblical account of the Exodus from Egypt is both our freedom-document and a foundation-story for Jewish teaching, tradition, and consciousness. Together, we will examine the nature of that account and also touch upon questions concerning its historicity. Then we will examine interesting ways in which Hasidic teachers viewed and even retold the Exodus account. Some of their comments range beyond a literal understanding to a more symbolic grasp of the Exodus-tradition which might help us to clarify its meaning in

our lives today. Participants will be asked, prior to the course, to read the biblical Exodus-account (Exodus, chapters 1-15) in order to be able to discuss that account and respond to it. S&RL, TE.

Aryeh Wineman, rabbi and author, who has taught several courses at the Havurah Institute over the years, is engaged in research and writing in the areas of Hebrew literature and Jewish mysticism.

A02 - Freedom Declared: Jewish Poetry Laboratories

Natalie Lyalin and Joshua Bolton, Poretzky Artists in Residence

Jewish poets are calling out to the universe: Listen up, universe! Listen up, Torah! Listen up, politicians! Join us for a series of poetry “laboratories,” where our instruments will be the written word and the collective *neshama* (soul) of the Jewish people. Using poetic techniques developed by our rabbinic and surrealist fore-folk, we will engage in: *midrash* (rabbinic story development), prayer composition, protest poetry, and the subverting of oppressive texts. Each laboratory will include a reading of poetic/Jewish source materials, individual and communal writing activities, and workshop. No previous poetic experience required, just a desire to pray with your pen! A&L, CI, EX.

Joshua Bolton is a rabbinical student at Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA. He is also a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Program for Writers and Poets, from which he received an MFA in Poetry. Josh established the Hillel student organization at the University of the Arts in downtown Philadelphia.

*Natalie Lyalin is the author of *Pink & Hot Pink Habitat* (Coconut Books, 2009). She received her MFA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Program for Writers and Poets. Natalie is the co-editor of *GlitterPony* magazine, an online poetry journal, and co-edits *Agnes Fox Press*, an independent poetry collective. She has taught *Freshman Composition and Creative Writing* at Temple University and University of the Arts.*

A04 - The Art and Spirit of Prayer Leading

Julia Appel

How do we elevate our prayer experience and that of our communities? How do we best use the natural gifts of our voice, body, and heart toward that end? Together, we will explore central Jewish approaches, in texts from the Talmud to Chasidism to contemporary thinkers. We will also hone our use of voice, tone, and words to facilitate a prayer experience of clear, directed intention. Topics include defining our service leading goals, balancing *kevah* with *kavanah* (structure with intentionality), skillful use of and strengthening of the voice, and raising up others’ prayers. English translations provided, but text will be considered in the original Hebrew. Prerequisites: Experience prayer leading (any setting). Familiarity with service structure and basic Hebrew comprehension. S&RL.

Julia Appel returns from a year in Jerusalem to enter her final year at Hebrew College Rabbinical School this autumn, where she develops her prayer leading skills with Rabbi Ebn Leader. She has prayed and led services with havurot, shabbatonim, and congregations across the Northeast and in Jerusalem. This is her seventh Havurah Institute.

A06 - Israel Through the Lens: Israeli Filmmakers Look at Their World

Susan Barocas

Israel’s film industry is recognized as one of the best, most productive and diverse today. The country’s talented directors, producers and writers are leaders in the international cinema scene. Quite willing to turn the camera onto their own lives and society, these artists are free to express themselves without censorship or government limits. Using excerpts from contemporary Israeli films, we will explore the themes, issues and ideas in the focus of Israeli filmmakers today. We will also examine the question of whether or not there is a distinctly “Israeli style” in the country’s cinema and how that style might reflect realities of life in Israel today. A&L, EX.

Susan Barocas is a filmmaker and writer who currently directs DC's Washington Jewish Film Festival, one of the leading fests of the nearly 150 Jewish film festivals around the world each year. A multi-year Institute participant, she directed the Kids Camp for three years and loves attending with her son, Sam, who is finally old enough for the Teen Program.

A08 - Lomir Zingen Frayheyt (Let's Sing Freedom)

Charley Beller

This course aims to build and deepen participants' connection to Yiddish and Yiddish folk culture through learning and singing Yiddish songs from various traditions. Each day we will share stories and learn songs ranging from children's lullabies to the *Partisan Hymn*. No prior familiarity with Yiddish or Yiddish folksong will be assumed. Participants who do have prior familiarity will have opportunity to share favorites from their collections. Recording devices are welcome, as are musical instruments. A&L, H&C.

Charley Beller is a Ph.D. candidate in Cognitive Science at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. He is an avid musician and an enthusiastic Yiddishist. He has attended many past NHC Institutes and is excited to be offering a course for the first time.

A10 - So You Think You Can't Dance

Walli Adler Chefitz

We will learn several Israeli folk dances and weave movement lessons in between them to heighten our ability and enjoyment of dancing. The movement lessons will focus on Balance, Alignment, Strength and Body Mechanics. We will learn dances with the theme of freedom such as: *D'ror Yikra*, *Manginat Ha D'ror*, and *At Cheruti*. This class is intended for anyone who wants a greater appreciation of movement possibilities; movement freedom; and is for all ages - especially for those who have not danced in a while. The course is not intended for anyone with serious physical problems. A&M.

Walli Chefitz has attended almost all Institutes and was co-chair in 1991. She is an occupational therapist and teaches Bones for Life® which is the basis of the lessons and has taught Israeli Dance. This course will combine two of her greatest interests, movement and Israeli dance.

A12 - Al Shlosha Devarim ... On Three Things the World Stands: Truth, Justice and the American Way? Exploring the Relationship between Jews, Judaism and the American Comic Book

Brian Fink

Samson, the Golem of Prague, Superman and The Thing have in common? How have medieval illustrated manuscripts influenced the creation of modern-day *haggadot* and *megillot*? Is a comic book an appropriate medium for discussing the Holocaust? If you could have any one super-power, what would it be? These questions and more, as we explore this topic through *hevruta* text study, group discussion, art, and the movies. All Hebrew texts will include English translations. It is recommended that students bring a copy of JT Waldman's *Megillat Esther* (JPS) to the Institute. A&L, TE.

Brian Fink, back for his 5th Institute, is a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He recently spent a year in Israel, studying at Pardes and Hebrew University. He loves to talk about Reconstructionism, social justice (especially Avodah and the American Jewish World Service), and archaeology. Like Superman, he someday hopes to be able to fly.

A14 - Walking Humbly with God: Towards a Progressive Definition of Tzniut (Modesty) Marisa Harford

The Jewish concept of *tzniut* (modesty or humility) is most familiar to us as the basis for guidelines for modest dress, but it also concerns norms about appropriate behavior and boundaries. *Tzniut* is highly relevant to contemporary society—especially in an age when our culture increasingly represents both women and men in a highly sexualized manner and constantly blurs the boundaries between the public and the private. Are the laws of *tzniut* inherently oppressive? Is there room to engage authentically with the

concept of modesty in a liberal context? We will study traditional and non-traditional texts and work together through them to create our own communal definitions of modesty. CI, TE.

When she is not soaking up the learning at Institute, Marisa Harford is the director of the New Visions - Hunter College Urban Teacher Residency, an alternative certification program for teachers in New York City. She loves grappling with Jewish texts in chevruta, singing, cooking, and writing.

A16 - The Ground Where You Are Standing is Holy: A Jewish Theology of Place

Jill Jacobs

What does it mean to live in a place as a Jew? How does that place, or our choice of it, affect our relationship with God—whether through the place itself or the people we encounter there? What obligations do we have to that place and those people? And what does place mean in a globalized world? In this course, we will examine concepts of space and place in secular and Jewish thought, and we will work to construct a theology of place that helps us to define our spheres of obligation to the world around us. CI, S&RL.

*Jill Jacobs is the author of *There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition* (Jewish Lights 2009) and the *Rabbi-in-Residence of Jewish Funds for Justice*. She is currently at work on a book about the theology of place as a framework for effective social justice work, which she began while on sabbatical as a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Leadership Institute. She lives in New York with her husband, Guy Austrian, and their daughter Lior.*

A18 - The Black Fire

Solomon Mowshowitz

'R. Simeon ben Lakish said: The Torah given to Moses was written with black fire upon white fire...(JT, Shel. 6:1, 49d). How did the actual text of the Torah, the Black Fire, get to be the way it is today? The Talmud cites passages from scripture that don't exist in our version; the sages acknowledge that they sometimes changed the text of the "original" Torah. We will explore the content and the physical text of the Torah, from both traditional and higher-critical perspectives. Content topics include the documentary hypothesis (J,E,P and D), "typos," *tikkun soferim* (changes introduced by the sages), vocalization, cantillation and variant texts (e.g. the Samaritan and Karaite Torahs). We'll look at the physical text and delve into the crowned Assyrian "font," the significance of the many different kinds of blank spaces, the outsized or broken or upside-down letters, the strange dots. We'll discuss: What is the spiritual meaning of all of these things to us? AT.

Mosh is a past Chair of the National Havurah Committee.

A20 - My Brother's Keeper: The Law of Lifnei Iver

Micha'el Rosenberg

To what extent are we expected to care about other people's actions? To what extent am I responsible for actions I deem problematic when committed by others? In this course, we will study the Rabbinic law of *lifnei iver*, which prohibits people from—at least in certain circumstances—aiding others in transgression. As we follow the twists and turns in the debates about the extent of this law, we will ask ourselves the question: what is gained and what is lost when we take responsibility for others' actions? CI, S&RL, TE.

Micha'el Rosenberg is the rabbi of the Fort Tryon Jewish Center, an independent egalitarian synagogue in the Washington Heights section of New York City. A doctoral candidate in Talmud and Rabbinic Literature at JTS, he received his rabbinical ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel following his studies at Yeshiva Ma'aleh Gilboa. He has taught Bible, Tamud, and halakhah in a variety of settings, including Drisha, JTS, the Northwoods Kollel, and Yeshivat Hadar.

A22 - "Amish" Yisrael?— Technology, Radical Simplicity, and Jewish Freedom of Choice Regina Sandler-Phillips

What happens to freedom and community in the proliferation of technology and media? This course will begin with consideration of the simple ("plain") living practiced within the "peace churches" of the Amish,

Mennonites, Brethren and conservative Quakers. We will relate such Christian choices to those of both insular and integrated Jewish communities, especially in the decision-making context of *musar* (ethical discipline). Finally, we will listen to how “freedom calls” in the traditional observance of *Shabbat*, as we consider the individual and communal choices facing us as 21st century Jews. Come prepared to combine *midrash* (study, teaching) with *ma’aseh* (practical action). S&RL, TE.

Regina Sandler-Phillips grew up in contact with the insular Jewish communities of Monsey, New York, which informed a number of her subsequent life choices. She is the founding rabbi of Kehillat Tikvah, a trans-denominational Jewish “Community of Hope” in Jackson Heights, Queens and also serves as a hospice bereavement chaplain in her home borough of Brooklyn. Regina believes that we teach what we most need to learn, and has done both at 10 previous NHC Summer Institutes.

A24 - Reading (and Writing) Midrash

Devorah Schoenfeld

We will examine selected midrash from *The Mechilta*, *Midrash Rabbah*, and *Midrash Tanchuma*. We will examine how they work and how they generate new stories from biblical verses. Then we will compose our own ‘creative *midrash*’ using the same techniques observed in the classical texts. (If possible, students will benefit from *hevruta* study outside class.) AT.

Devorah Schoenfeld is the Ike Weiner Chair of Judaic Studies at St. Mary’s College of Maryland and has previously taught at University of California, Davis and at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Her doctorate is in medieval Jewish and Christian biblical interpretation, and she is currently writing a book on the history of the literal sense of scripture.

A26 - Who Jew? You Jew? - The Complexities of Contemporary Conversion

Brent Chaim Spodek

Many thousands of Jews are practicing a religion into which they were not born. We’ll look at some of the classical sources on conversion, some of the contemporary issues around conversion in the U.S., Israel and elsewhere, and discuss what the future might hold for this issue in the Jewish community. IT, S&RL.

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek lives in Beacon New York with his wife Alison and their daughter Noa. When he isn’t hiking or inexpertly playing the drum, he is the Rabbi in Residence at American Jewish World Service, where he writes, teaches and oversees a program to educate rabbis about human rights issues in the Global South.