

Charlotte Jewish Learning Institute

Worldwide Release of Flashbacks in Jewish History: A Look to the Past, a Reflection on the Future

The Charlotte Jewish Learning Institute is set to launch an intriguing new history course during this coming spring, joining over 200 affiliates across the globe. But unlike traditional history courses where students focus on dates, names, and events, "Flashbacks in Jewish History" looks beneath the surface at what history means to the Jews as a people.

"Jews have had to grapple with the challenge of maintaining their identity in environments that were foreign and often hostile," explains Rabbi Yossi Groner. "By probing the wonder of Jewish survival, we hope our students will be led to think critically about their own strategies for interacting successfully with the greater culture."

"Flashbacks in Jewish History" does not attempt to be comprehensive in its coverage of any era; rather, it tries to spark curiosity and to engage students emotionally. "Flashbacks in Jewish History" appeals to the intellect by introducing the impassioned debate of historians over what really happened, at times even casting students directly into the historian's role as they are asked to interpret primary texts. The course touches the heart, as students are shown that history is about people just like them, with hopes, dreams, and challenges.

"We live in an increasingly

global community, where people with differing views are forced to interact more than at any other time in human history," says Charlotte JLI coordinator Rabbi Shlomo Cohen, "so I'm excited to learn how Jews have survived history with their culture and traditions intact."



As cries of "jihad" resound through the Middle East today, one could be reminded of the radical Almohads sweeping through Spain, leaving destruction in their wake. On encountering religious and cultural intolerance in many parts of the world today, we not infrequently experience déjà vu, an uncanny feeling that we have lived through all of this before. "Flashbacks in Jewish History" shows students how we can learn from the past to better guide and direct our future.

This exciting new course will be offered at the Lubavitch Educational Center for six Wednesdays, beginning on Wednesday, May 2. The morning class will be taught by Rabbi Shlomo Cohen at 9:00 am and the evening class by Rabbi Yossi Groner at 7:30 pm. The cost of the course is \$80.00, which includes a beautiful student textbook. "We are so sure that you will enjoy it," says Rabbi Groner, "that we invite anyone interested to attend the first lesson free, with no obligation."

What can students gain by tak-

ing this course? A chance to discover where they came from and how they survived countless persecutions to get here. A chance to experience the wonder of Jewish survival and reflect back on the past. A chance to face the future with renewed hope and inspiration. And an opportunity to learn the secrets that will help make that future brighter and more meaning.

Course Outline:
Ancient Struggles with Modern Messages: Encounters of the Classical Period — Cultures in Collision: Israel vs. Greece and Rome

Rising Stars, Waning Crescents: Encounters with Medieval Islam in the Middle East and Spain — Far From the Places That We Call Home: Jewish Exile and Dispersal in the Middle East; All That Glitters: The Golden Age in Moslem Spain Prevailing Despite Hate and Oppression: Encounters with Medieval Christian Europe — Rivers of Blood: Anti-Semitism in Medieval Christian Europe; In the Shadow of the Inquisition: The Downfall of Spanish Jewry; Rising from the Ashes: The Revival of European Jewry. ☆

Beth Shalom of Lake Norman Hosts Shabbaton led by Rabbinical Resident Weekends Feature Events, Celebrations and Services with Something for Everyone

Beth Shalom of Lake Norman (www.bethshalom-lkn.org) continues its plans for upcoming weekends with Rabbinical Resident, Philip Ohriner.

April 20-21: Friday night yoga service and Shabbat dinner. Saturday morning traditional Torah service followed by Tot Shabbat and adult Torah portion discussion. Morning ends with community lunch. Saturday evening Havdalah service followed by a discussion of Jewish-Islamic relations throughout history. This event is for adults only.

Sunday morning Building Jewish Ruach: family kickball tournament and breakfast.

May 11-12: Friday night service and Shabbat dinner. Saturday morning service and discussion of the role of the Jewish Mother. Saturday evening Interfaith Havdalah Service open to the community.

Philip is a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, having studied previously at The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and at Indiana

University. A southerner at heart, Philip graduated high school in Knoxville, TN. For some of the weekends, he will be joined by his wife Shoshana, who is also a rabbinical student.

Be certain to check Beth Shalom's website www.bethshalom-lkn.org for up-to-date details on these and other events. ☆



Temple Israel Book Club
A Tale of Love and Darkness, a Memoir by Amos Oz

TUESDAY, MAY 29 – 7:30 PM, TEMPLE ISRAEL

To read the autobiography of a prize-winning Israeli author is an enriching experience. When the memoir is set against the background of an embattled Palestine during World War II, the jubilation after the U.N. vote to partition Palestine and create a Jewish state, the violence and deprivations of Israel's war of independence and the Arab siege of Jerusalem, the story becomes extraordinary. "... a story of clashing cultures and lives, of suffering and perseverance, of love and darkness." Amos Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness* "is a powerful, nimbly constructed saga of a man, a family and a nation forged in the crucible of a difficult, painful history."

The Temple Israel book club selection for its May 29 meeting will expand the reader's knowledge of the founding of Israel as well as an appreciation of the author. (Oz's novel *To Know a Woman* was one of the earliest Temple Israel book club selections shortly after it was founded nearly fifteen years ago.)

Copies of *A Tale of Love and Darkness* are available at the public library, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center, and may be purchased at local book stores or on-line for about \$11.

Temple Israel Book Club meetings are open to all community members. For additional information, contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com) or Sandra Hirschman (704-867-7051). ☆

"You have put me in the lowest pit, in dark places, in depths. You have distanced my friends from me; you have made me abhorrent to them; I am imprisoned and do not go out."

— Psalm 88:7-9

CHARLOTTE X ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE X ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE X ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE X ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE X

Mulvaney Properties presents
 Actor's Theatre's production of

The Great American Trailer Park MUSICAL

by Betsy Kelso
 Music & Lyrics by David Nehls
 Directed by Dennis Delamar

Apr. 18 at 7:30pm
 Apr. 19 at 7:30pm
 Apr. 20 at 8pm
 Apr. 21 at 8pm
 Apr. 25 at 7:30pm (Pay What You Can Night)
 Apr. 26 at 7:30pm
 Apr. 27 at 8pm
 Apr. 28 at 8pm
 Apr. 29 at 2:30pm
 May 2 at 7:30pm
 May 3 at 7:30pm
 May 4 at 8pm
 May 5 at 8pm

creativeXloafing
 ASC
 ARTS

THE ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE OF

650 E. Stonewall St.
 Tickets: \$23-\$28
 Call to reserve your seat!
 Group rates available!
 704-342-2251
www.actorstheatrecharlotte.org

"Southpark" meets "Desperate Housewives" in this riotous country rock musical that tells the story of Pippi, a new tenant – and runaway stripper – at Armadillo Acres, Florida's most exclusive trailer park. Her arrival wreaks havoc on the unhappy marriage of the homophobic Jeannie and her tollbooth collector husband in true Jerry Springer-like fashion in this runaway 2004-05 Off-Broadway hit.

contains adult content and language