



## JLI: New Course on Jewish Business Ethics – Money Matters

The recent failures in the financial industry have changed the way we think about business. In Judaism we believe that business should be a force for good. Our newest Jewish Learning Institute course, Money Matters, challenges you to question your assumptions about business at a deep level, to understand what your values are, what you stand for, and how you are going to contribute to society and the world.

Join us for this informative JLI six week course in Charlotte beginning on Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 PM for the evening classes and Wednesday, January 25, 11 AM for the day classes. All sessions will be held at the Lubavitch Education Center on Sardis Road.

Money Matters will present Judaism's approach to practical economic dilemmas and monetary quandaries that we face daily in both our personal and professional lives.

The goal of this course is to

provide a sensitive, fair, and unshakable economic paradigm grounded in 3,000 years of tradition and practical experience — an ancient yet fresh spin on how we view ethics of money. Students will emerge from this course with an understanding that only a divine economic system can ensure unequivocal justice while recognizing the virtue in each stakeholder's position. Money Matters will show how the Torah's sharply discerning yet holistic rulings inspire us with the confidence to confront any ethical economic dilemma.

There is good news for attorneys in North Carolina as this course is CLE accredited by the North Carolina State Bar. Lawyers who need credits for the CLE's can join the class and accomplish learning Torah and receiving their CLE's at the same time.

In the recent economic downturn, much fury has arisen from reports that CEOs of Americas

biggest companies take grand bonuses and huge salaries. Is it morally wrong to seek extravagance? Are those who criticize their good fortune just jealous, or is their disgust valid? This lesson will discuss some of the moral problems related to CEO compensation, including some conflicts of interest.

While a lucky few go home with millions, many more return home in poverty. What is the best way to solve the problem of the "working poor"? Should employers be obligated to pay their employees the minimum hourly income necessary for a worker to meet basic needs? This lesson will explore this hotly debated issue from both the angle of Jewish law, as well as from the perspective of "going beyond the letter of the law" — a central pillar of Jewish business ethics.

The controversy over union rights is recurrently strewn across U.S. headlines. What does Jewish

law have to say about whether workers should have the right to unionize and bargain collectively? And does it matter whether they are public or private sector employees?

Should the right to strike be granted, despite the harm it can cause to society? Does the type of industry make a difference? This lesson will present the Talmud's enlightening spin on unionization, collective bargaining, and strikes.

In times of old, when a debtor was not able to repay his debts, he was sold as a slave or thrown into prison. Today, we have bankruptcy laws that protect individuals from this fate. But is it ethical to borrow without repaying? If someone earns the money later in life, should they be obligated to repay their settled debts? This lesson explores the Jewish legal perspective on bankruptcy, emphasizing how we can incorporate secular local laws and customs into Jewish law.

Information is a valuable commodity — this fact has been made clear by recent stories of high profile prosecutions on insider trading charges. But is it fair to require companies to make information readily available to people who did not expend the time, effort, and money to attain it? Can stealing or misusing information be likened to property theft?

How do we set up markets which ensure that risk is apportioned fairly? In this lesson, we will compare and contrast what American law and Jewish law have to say on the subject.

For more information on this course please visit [www.myjli.com](http://www.myjli.com). Or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

## Tu B'Shevat Shabbaton on Friday, February 3

Congregation Ohr HaTorah invites everyone in the Charlotte Jewish community to an uplifting Friday night dinner honoring Tu b'Shevat – New Year for trees together with family and friends.

Join friends and family for an inspirational evening with delicious Shabbat cuisine, featuring an array of delightful Israeli wines as we explore the spiritual meaning of the Tu b'Shevat holiday. Discover the meaning and rituals of this exciting holiday and why we humans celebrate the New Year for trees.

The Shabbaton will be held on Friday, February 3. Services and candle lighting will begin at 5:30

PM. Shabbat Dinner at 6:45 PM. Cost of Shabbaton is \$18 per person - \$50 per family. To reserve, visit the payment page at [www.chabadnc.org](http://www.chabadnc.org) or mail a check to 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. For more information, please call 704-366-3984 or email: [info@chabadnc.org](mailto:info@chabadnc.org). ☆



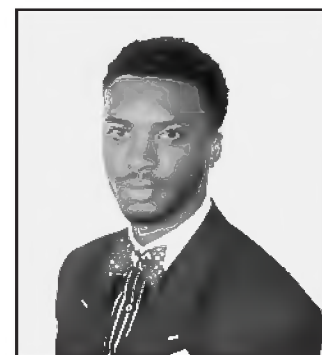
## Temple Beth El's Martin Luther King Shabbat Part of Larger Exchange

The Friday night of Martin Luther King weekend starts off Charlotte's third annual Sermon Exchange. Dozens of Charlotte congregational leaders will exchange pulpits in a program sponsored by Crossroads Charlotte and Mecklenburg Ministries.

Beth El's MLK Shabbat on Friday, January 13 at 7 PM will highlight one preacher, one pastor, one praise team, and two meaningful exchanges. The first exchange is reflected in the Shalom Park Freedom School. Kevin Vandiver, who has been serving the Children's Defense Fund for four consecutive summers and was our Shalom Park Freedom School Site Coordinator, will be our featured speaker. A gifted preacher and passionate

leader, Kevin earned his Bachelor's degree from Winthrop University and is currently enrolled at Duke University Divinity School. He brings wisdom, learning, a commitment to social justice, and a familiarity with the Jewish community.

The music of Beth El's MLK Shabbat service will be lifted by the Praise Team of Briar Creek Church. Pastor Dennis Hall will lead a prayer for peace. Pastor Hall is a strong servant leader who feels a passion for Israel, for lifting up those in need in Haiti, and most of all, for reaching out to support Charlotte families in need. As part of our second exchange, Beth El will host a model Seder for Briar Creek Church. (Details forthcoming.)



Kevin Vandiver

Song. Food. Prayer. Passion for lifting up the community in which we live. Building connections that will heal our city. These and more will be at the heart of the Beth El MLK experience this year. Please join us. ☆

## Classical Reform Shabbat with Guest Speaker Rabbi Howard Berman

On January 20 at 8 PM, Rabbi Howard Berman from the Society for Classical Reform Judaism will join the TBE clergy in leading Shabbat worship. The service will explore some historic liturgy and music of the Reform Movement within the context of our contemporary TBE service. Prepare to

have your spirits lifted through the elevated song and prose of the Reform tradition. ☆



## "Taste of Judaism" Winter Session at Temple Beth El Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25

7-8:30 PM  
No charge. All are welcome. Jewish or not, member or not.

Registration Required: Shari Hackman or Janie Meyers, 704-749-3051 or [shackman@beth-el.com](mailto:shackman@beth-el.com) or [jmeyers@beth-el.com](mailto:jmeyers@beth-el.com).

Are you curious? Join us to explore and learn the Jewish perspective on living in today's world. Discussions to include:

spirituality, values, community and traditions. Seating is limited. ☆



## Temple Beth El Presents Its 15th Annual Comparative Religion Series

### "One God? Yours or Mine ... A Provocative Look at the Concept of God"

Tuesday Evenings, January 10-February 21

Please join us at Temple Beth El for our 15th Annual Comparative Religion Series. Sessions will run from 7-9 PM on six successive Tuesday evenings, starting January 10. (February 21 is reserved as a snow date.)

This year's program has been planned by the Temple Beth El Comparative Religion Committee and sponsored through partnership with the Temple Beth El Sisterhood. Rabbi Judy Schindler will provide an illuminating introduction to the Series on January 10, which will deepen our understanding of the course of study for the remaining weeks.

The annual Comparative Religion Series was established fifteen years ago with the intent to educate our community, promote understanding and respect of all

faiths, and reveal the commonalities in our differences.

The 2012 schedule is as follows:

\* **January 10: Rabbi Judy Schindler, Temple Beth El – Welcome and Overview – Jewish perspective**

\* **January 17: Mr. John Barringer, Counselor to President Cheney of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Mormon perspective**

\* **January 24: Imam John Ederer, Muslim American Society of Charlotte – Islamic perspective**

\* **January 31: Reverend James Howell, Myers Park First United Methodist Church – Protestant perspective**

\* **February 7: Father Patrick Earl, Saint Peter's Catholic Church – Catholic perspective**

\* **February 14: Ms. Marcy Braverman Goldstein, PhD, Department of Religious Studies, UNC Charlotte – Hinduism, a scholar's perspective**

\* **February 21: Snow date**

For details, visit [www.beth-el.com](http://www.beth-el.com) or call Temple Beth El at 704-366-1948. ☆

