

Meet Our Instructors (continued)

Rabbi Asher Lopatin is the rabbi of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation. A musmach of both Yeshivas Brisk (Rav Ahron Soloveichik) and Yeshiva University, he received his B.A. from Boston University, and completed an M.Phil and doctoral work at Oxford University studying Medieval Islam and Islamic Fundamentalism on a Rhodes Scholarship. Rabbi Lopatin and his wife Rachel Tessler Lopatin were both Wexner Graduate Fellows, and they have four children, two of whom attend the new multidenominational school of Chicago, the Chicago Jewish Day School.

Elan Sherbill, a native of Norhbrook, IL, has studied Torah at the Skokie Yeshiva, Yeshivat HaKotel and Yeshivat Bat Ayin. While at Bat Ayin, Elan was influenced by the teachings of Hassidut, particularly those of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. He now spends his week working in the e-commerce industry in downtown Chicago.

Rabbi Dr. Julian Ungar is an interventional neurologist who trained in the U.K. with a prior degree in music from the Royal Academy. He earned his M.A. from the Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Ancient Near Eastern studies from Brandeis University. His projects include such topics as Pain and Spirituality, Chassidism and Post Modernity, as well as a reconstruction of the musical notation of Psalms. His children are Eli, Naftali, Batya, Tsiona, Ayelet, and Aliza.

Dov Weiss is a doctoral candidate in rabbinic theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School and is the Director of Admissions at the Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York. He has rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (affiliated with YU) and an MA in Modern Jewish History from Yeshiva University. A former Wexner Graduate Fellow, he previously served as a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at University of Illinois.

Many thanks to ASBI's Education Committee:

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ASBI TORAH STUDY INSTITUTE



SUMMER 2010

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See you in shul!

HOLIDAY CLASSES

- Tisha B'Av

Of Personal and National Mourning

Rachel Kohl Finegold

6:55 PM on Shabbat, July 10

The *halachot* that govern the days and weeks leading up to Tisha B'av are modeled after the *halachot* of personal mourning following the loss of a relative. We will explore the psychological underpinning of some of these laws, in an effort to understand how we might personally mourn the destruction of the Temple.

The Silver Lining in the Destruction of the Temple

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

7:05 PM on Shabbat, July 17

Was the destruction of the Temple such a bad thing? Surprisingly there are traditions which offer comfort that the destruction helped the Jewish people survive and even thrive. We'll explore this counter trend in understanding the sad events of Tisha B'av.

- Elul

Wake Up! It's Rosh Chodesh Elul!

Rachel Kohl Finegold

7:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, August 10

The call of the shofar is meant to say, "Uru yeshaynim m'shnatchem!" - "Wake up, slumberers, from your sleep!" Using selected texts related to repentance and personal growth, we will awaken our inner selves to the month of Elul.

Meet Our Instructors

Nikki Paley Cox teaches poetry and composition at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has an MFA from Emerson College and has been published in *The Jewish Womens' Literary Annual*, *The World Jewish Digest*, *River Oak Review*, *After Hours*, *Hanging Loose*, *Briar Cliff Review*, and *Another Chicago Magazine*. Her poem in BCR was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is currently at work on a full-length play.

Rabbi Avi Finegold received his ordination from Rabbi Yeshua Tzvi Shmidman at Yeshiva Noam HaTorah in Montreal, and is a graduate student at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has taught high school Talmud and Philosophy, and was a Teaching Fellow at the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Boston. Rabbi Avi is the co-chair of Limmud Chicago and spends most of his days as a full-time Abba.

Rachel Kohl Finegold is the Education & Ritual Director at ASBI, where she holds the Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman Rabbanit Chair. She completed the Scholars Circle at the Drisha Institute in New York, received her B.A. in Religion from Boston University, and has studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum and MaTaN in Jerusalem. Her numerous years as a staff member at Camp Neshar in Pennsylvania, as well as other camp and theater settings in the U.S. and abroad, have given her a passion for informal Jewish education. She is currently enrolled in the inaugural class of Yeshivat Maharat, a new institution training Orthodox women as spiritual leaders.

Rachel S. Harris is Assistant Professor of Comparative and World Literature, and in the Program of Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she teaches modern Hebrew Literature. Her research focuses on suicide in Hebrew literature, and contemporary Israeli writing.

Rabbi Yehoshua Karsh received his M.Ed in Guidance and Counseling, and spent seventeen years in Jerusalem continuing his studies and teaching at Ohr Somayach, Neve Yerushalayim Jewish Educational Network, B'not Torah Institute and Sha'arim. Upon moving to Chicago, Rabbi Karsh became Director of Outreach at the Chicago Community Kollel, and helped found the Torah Learning Center of Northbrook. Rabbi Karsh currently lives in Northbrook with his wife, Tzippy, and their four sons.

Aviya Kushner is an assistant professor in the nonfiction writing program at Columbia College. She is the author of *And There Was Evening*, *And There Was Morning*, about the experience of reading the Bible in English after a lifetime of reading it in Hebrew. Her essays have appeared in *Partisan Review*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, and *Poets & Writers*. Her fiction has appeared in *Zoetrope: All-Story*, and her poems have been published in *Harvard Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Passages North*, *The Saint Ann's Review*, and *Salamander*. She holds an MFA from The University of Iowa in nonfiction writing, an MA from Boston University's creative writing program in poetry, a *Certificat Supérieur* from the Sorbonne, and a BA from The Johns Hopkins University in the Writing Seminars and the History of Art.

Classes for Busy People!

Don't have time to attend a series? Here are some one-session classes to fit your busy schedule.

Three Astonishing Midrashim About God

Dov Weiss

Monday, June 21 at 7:00-8:00 PM

Come and explore three fascinating rabbinic texts that describe God as "changing His mind" after encountering opposition from various biblical characters. What does this say about the rabbinic conception of God? Should these Midrashim be taken literally? What implications can these texts have on our own spiritual lives?

Rethinking the Holocaust

Rachel Harris

Wednesday, June 30 at 7:00-8:00 PM

Israeli writer Etgar Keret challenges the ways in which we think about Holocaust commemoration in his short stories "Shoes" and "Siren". Is he being offensive or is he just pointing to the hypocrisy in Israel? Come and find out in this conversation about two of his short stories.

The Two Ibn Ezras

Aviya Kushner

Monday, July 12 at 7:00-8:00 PM

Most of us know Avraham Ibn Ezra from his commentary on the Tanach, but he was also a world-class poet. There were actually two amazing medieval Jewish poets named Ibn Ezra; the other fantastic poet, Moshe Ibn Ezra, is worth a close look as well. This class will look at poems by both Ibn Ezras, and it will offer a window into the twelfth century -- a moment in Jewish history when major rabbis often doubled as major poets.

Contemporary Jewish American Female Poets

Nikki Cox

Monday, July 26 at 7:00-8:00 PM

In this class, we will look at the poetry of two contemporary American female poets, Alicia Ostriker and Gail Mazur. Specifically, we will explicate one poem from each author and work to uncover the qualities and themes that distinguish each poet's work.

TANACH (BIBLE)

Ken's Parsha

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

12:00 Noon on Thursdays, monthly - call ASBI office for dates

At Ken's Diner, 3353 W. Dempster, Skokie

Ken's famous Burger Buddy alongside Rabbi Lopatin's famous parsha class.

Behind the Veil: A Mystical Glimpse into the Torah Portion

Rabbi Yehoshua Karsh

8:30-9:30 PM on Thursdays, Ongoing

Each week, explore a theme developed out of the weekly Torah portion. The classes are mystical, psychological, and experiential. No particular background is required, just curiosity and a sense of humor.

The Book of Ezra

Rabbi Asher Lopatin and the Minyannaires

Immediately after Shacharit on Sunday-Friday mornings, Ongoing

Join the Minyannaires for a lively in-depth discussion of the text and its timeless message.

Hassidic Dimensions in the Post-Modern World

Rabbi Dr. Julian Ungar

7:00-8:00 PM on Sundays, June 13-August 8, except July 4

We will be examining our reading practices by looking at the Sacred Text in a multi-layered way. By seeing the biases we bring to the text, we begin to see its mirroring effect and learn to read ourselves in the text. We will discover the mythic strata embedded deep in the text and in our psyches, and the way the text can help us make sense of our lives as well as our personal suffering and grief. We will forge a new approach that resists the pietistic-moralistic approach but also a purely scholastic-archeological reduction. Finally, by being open to radical readers like the Hassidic masters before us, we will rely on them for a new trajectory that makes for exciting study.

The Louis A. Lerner Institute of Torah Texts sponsors all Torah text classes at Anshe Sholom.

TALMUD and HALACHA

"Encounter the Text" Series

These courses encourage participants to encounter foundational Talmudic and Halachic texts in the original.

Encounter the Text: Talmud Yerushalmi

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

7:00-8:00 PM on Wednesdays, July 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11

Explore the exciting new world of the Jerusalem Talmud. We will learn its unique style, hued in the difficult but inspiring first few centuries of the common era in the land of Israel.

Encounter the Text: Aruch Hashulchan

Rachel Kohl Finegold

7:00-8:00 PM on Tuesdays, June 29, July 6, 27, August 3

Tradition meets the modern world in this classic 19th-century halachic work. We will examine selections from this collection, with an eye toward the author's effort to keep halacha vibrant and relevant in an ever-changing world. This is an intermediate-level course, where participants should be familiar with basic Hebrew.

Intermediate Talmud

See Shabbat classes.

Niddah Refresher Course

Rachel Kohl Finegold

By arrangement only

The manner in which the laws of Niddah (also known as Taharat HaMishpacha) are taught is not always conducive to practice. A bride and groom study before their wedding, in a vacuum, and then begin to practice the laws only later. A refresher is almost an inevitable need, once the couple has incorporated these halachot into their intimate lives.

This is a text-based Niddah course, which will help to tease apart what is chumra (stringency) and what is the minimum halachic requirement. We will also look at the Biblical basis for the halachot surrounding menstruation, and how the laws developed into what is practiced today. Bring your questions.

Class arrangements may be made for women-only groups, or co-ed groups, with a minimum of four participants. Contact Rachel at rkfinegold@asbi.org or at 773-248-9200.

ONGOING SHABBAT CLASSES

Intermediate Talmud

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

8:30-9:00 AM on Shabbat morning

Get your Shabbat morning off to a good start! For those who have had some exposure to Talmud, here is a chance to continue to develop your skills. We will continue to study the tractate of Kiddushin.

Tefilla Yeshiva

Rabbi Avi Finegold

10:00-10:45 AM on every other Shabbat

Those looking to enrich both their understanding of and experience in prayer can opt for this insightful and participatory class. Each class session focuses on one specific piece of the liturgy, examining it in depth. Drop in on a class, even if you haven't attended any prior sessions.

Peer-Led Parsha Discussion Group

Shabbat afternoons, following Kiddush

Join Dr. Leonard Kranzler and a group of friendly and motivated ASBI members to discuss the weekly parsha, the daf yomi, Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) and other exciting topics.

The Week Past; the Week Ahead

Rabbi Asher Lopatin/ Rachel Kohl Finegold

About 45 minutes before Mincha

A thoughtful class related to Parsha, Jewish thought, and other relevant topics.

Finding the Spark: Studies of Hassidic Masters

Elan Sherbill

Shabbat afternoon, see weekly bulletin for timing

Join us for an exploration of the individual's relation to the divine through the lenses of the Hassidic Masters. We are currently studying the writings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslav, and will soon move on to those of the Ishbitzer and Piaseczner Rebbes.