ZOOM INTO OUR OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

Sample classes, meet with students and faculty, and have an authentic AJR experience through special programming and sessions.

AJR’S PROGRAMS

- Rabbinical Ordination
- Cantorial Ordination
- Cantors to Rabbis Track (for ordained or invested cantors)
- Kol-Bo Program (dual rabbinical and cantorial ordination)
- Master of Arts in Jewish Studies

ABOUT US

- Flexible distance learning with academic rigor
- Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools
- First and oldest pluralistic Jewish seminary training and ordaining rabbis and cantors as equal partners

JOIN US, CLICK HERE

Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor, Dean of Admissions:
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Welcome to AJR! We are delighted you are joining us for Open House. Feel free to spend your day sitting in on classes, speaking with our faculty and administration, and getting to know our students. Zoom links will be emailed in advance of the Open House. Please note that times indicated below are ET.

Schedule for the day:

9:30 – 10:30 am - 3 course options
**Advanced Nusah Yammim Noraim II**
Cantor Sol Zim

**Sefer Yetzirah**
Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

*The Mysterious Lives of Eliyahu Hanavi*
Rabbi Jef Segelman

10:35 – 11:20 am
**Informational FAQs**
Learn more about our programs of study, curriculum, distance learning and the AJR application process.

11:25 am – 12:05 pm
**Getting to Know AJR / Meeting with Students**
Meet with current students, faculty, and members of the administration.

12:10 – 12:45 pm
**Practica**
Cantorial Performances by cantorial students Carl Sayres and Turia Stark

12:55 – 1:55 pm - 3 course options
**Biblical Hebrew**
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum

**Introduction to Talmudic Logic**
Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL

*Creating Your Cantorial Life – This session is exclusively for open house attendees.*
Cantor Michael Kasper

2:10 – 3:10 pm
**Understanding Pluralism at AJR**
Dr. Ora Horn Prouser, CEO and Academic Dean
*This session is exclusively for open house attendees.*
3:30 – 3:50 pm

*Minhah*
Experience our spirited *tefillot.*

3:55 – 6:20 pm - 3 course options

*Leviticus Reconsidered: The Reality of the Holy and the Choreography of the Sacred*
Dr. Job Jindo

*Intermediate/Advanced Talmud*
Rabbi Matt Goldstone, PhD

Introduction to Bible
Dr. Ora Horn Prouser

Have a great day!

Course Descriptions

**CAN 446  Advanced Nusah Yammim Noraim II**
Cantor Sol Zim
An in-depth extensive study of the vast *Misinai* tunes that make up the Yom Kippur liturgy. Each student must develop an understanding of the various motifs and *nusahot* and how to use them in the course of *davening.*

**PHI 515  Sefer Yetzirah**
Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD
*Sefer Yetzirah* is one of the earliest works of Jewish mysticism. This brief and cryptic ancient book imagines letters as the building blocks of the universe, introduces us to the sefirot or divine realms, and focuses our attention on the components of space, time, and soul. Its goal is to allow adepts to contemplate, and even partake in, the Divine creative process interwoven with the details of the physical universe. We will be reading the work in its entirety, plus secondary literature, to understand the meaning of *Sefer Yetzirah* and its potential role in contemporary Jewish belief and contemplative practice. We will also be exploring the book’s meditative approach through our own exploration of its methods.

**BIB 337  The Mysterious Lives of Eliyahu Hanavi**
Rabbi Jef Segelman
We will study the life and work of the Prophet Elijah from the perspective of understanding the making of a spiritual leader. We will use both biblical and rabbinic texts, artistic images, and more in seeing how we can use the life of this prophet in understanding and working on clergy formation and spiritual leadership.

**BIB 320  Biblical Hebrew**
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew: examination of and exercise in the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew, for the development of competence in understanding and translating the classical Biblical texts with some attention to major differences between BH, Rabbinic and Modern Hebrew.

**RAB 230  Introduction to Talmudic Logic**
Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL
In this first trimester of Talmud study, the emphasis will be on learning the kind of Talmudic logic
employed in the legal arguments, especially the *kushia*-contradiction (objection) and the *terutz* (resolution). While the passages studied will be in parallel English/Hebrew-Aramaic columns from Sefaria, most of the passages will be studied in English in order to facilitate learning the challenging logic of talmudic discourse. Nevertheless, students will learn key technical terms in the original Aramaic. Once students learn the basics of Talmudic logic in this first trimester of Introduction to Talmud, the second trimester will introduce additional elements of talmudic study and passages will be studied in their original Hebrew and Aramaic.

**Creating Your Cantorial Life: Open House Session**
Cantor Michael Kasper
Get to know cantorial students, learn about their aspirations and listen to their voices.

**BIB 347 Leviticus Reconsidered: The Reality of the Holy and the Choreography of the Sacred**
Dr. Job Jindo
Many find the book of Leviticus too difficult to understand. Its cultic concerns seem obsolete and boring, and its rules of sacrifices and ritual purity appear to have no relevance to the social, existential, and normative issues of our time. And yet, we live in the “Golden Age of Parashat Hashavua (Weekly Torah portion),” and Jewish clergies are expected to know how to draw insight from this seemingly outmoded and arcane book. This course is a close critical reading of Leviticus, revolving around the contemporary relevance of this text. By the conclusion of this course, the student will learn: (1) the structure, purposes, and theological outlook of Leviticus; (2) the theology of holiness and the idea of biblical ecology as reflected in Leviticus; and (3) how to teach the book of Leviticus to the contemporaries with AJR values (i.e., critical rigor, inclusivity, commitment to the pluralistic, contemporary Jewish and broader communities).

**RAB 430 Intermediate/Advanced Talmud**
Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD
In this course students will continue to hone their abilities to critically read, parse, and understand Talmudic material. This semester will focus on *sugyot* that address “Big Concepts” such as the problem of evil, the value of martyrdom, and the origins of rabbinic Judaism. We will explore the ways that these sources impact us on a personal and spiritual level, as well as possible pedagogical applications for teaching these sources to others.

**BIB 101 Introduction to Bible**
Dr. Ora Horn Prouser
This course will introduce the student to modern critical studies of the Bible. Selected texts of the Bible will be studied in-depth while broader thematic issues will be surveyed. Various methodologies used by biblical scholars will be introduced to the students. The many meanings of the text and the centrality of the Bible in the Jewish world will be emphasized through careful study.

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