

# Challenging Times, Ageless Insights

Select Friday mornings at the Shames JCC

9:00 – 10:15 AM **FREE** for members and non-members

Sponsored by the Rivertowns Jewish Consortium\*, “Challenging Times, Ageless Insights” offers participants the opportunity to explore contemporary issues through a Jewish lens, providing insights, discussion, debate, and if we are successful, even more questions! Focusing more on depth than breadth, one can come with existing knowledge or just lots of curiosity. In a welcoming environment, we will challenge and learn from each other. Each month’s session will be taught by a different RJC clergy member.



**NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

**Rabbi Billy Dreskin:**

**“Immigration – Stranger Danger?”**

Rabbi Dreskin serves as a rabbi at Woodlands Community Temple in the Town of Greenburgh. He was ordained from the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion in 1987. Prior to ordination, he served as rabbinic intern and interim rabbi at Woodlands before heading off to Cleveland where he served as Associate Rabbi for six years before returning to Woodlands in 1995. Billy’s passions include Jewish learning, worship and acts of loving kindness, as well as jazz and musical theatre, and directing the work of The Jonah Maccabee Foundation. He is married to Cantor Ellen Dreskin, and is the proud father of Katie, Jonah (z”l) and Aiden.



**DECEMBER 6, 2019**

**Rabbi Mara Young:**

**“Jacob: Hero, Trickster and Our Namesake”**

Rabbi Young is the Associate Rabbi/Educator at Woodlands Community Temple. Rabbi Young was ordained at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion where she also earned a Masters of Hebrew Literature and a Certificate in Education: Specializing in Adolescents and Emerging Adults. Rabbi Mara is the co-founder and former spiritual leader of a young minyan in Astoria, NY called the Wandering Jews of Astoria. In 2017, she was honored as a “Young Pioneer” by the Jewish Education Project.



**JANUARY 3, 2020**

**Cantor Robin Joseph**

**“Bioethics, Round 2”**

Cantor, The Academy for Jewish Religion; BA, Dramatic Literature, Purchase College of the State University of New York. Cantor Joseph has been associated with Temple Beth Shalom in Hastings, New York, for more than thirty years. She is also a professional songwriter and writes, directs, and acts in original plays with her husband, Albi Gorn.



**FEBRUARY 7, 2020**

**Rabbi Jay Stein:**  
**"Guns at the Door"**

Rabbi Stein serves as the Rabbi of Greenburgh Hebrew Center in Dobbs Ferry, NY. He earned a B.A. from Columbia University and a B.A. from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He also earned an MA Jewish Education and Rabbinic Ordination from JTSA. Rabbi Stein served as an Alef-Alef Fellow Tel Aviv University. He won the Lowenfeld Prize in Practical Theology at JTSA and he was a Wexner Rabbinic Fellow. He is also a Certified Counselor in Chemical Dependence. Rabbi Stein was a Member of the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards of the Conservative Movement. He has authored numerous articles and academic articles. With his wife, Sharon, they have eight children combined.



**MARCH 6, 2020**

**Rabbi Halina Rubinstein:**

**"A Leadership Manual - What we learn from our textual tradition"**

Rabbi Halina Rubinstein was born in Mexico City. She attended the Leadership Institute for the Diaspora (Machon Lemadrichei Chutz La'aretz) in Jerusalem where she perfected her Hebrew. She attended the Jewish Theological Seminary where she completed a MA in Jewish Studies and a MPhil in Jewish Philosophy and received her rabbinic ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion (AJR). Rabbi Rubinstein is one of the founding members of Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns, a member-led chavurah of ninety families in Westchester County



**APRIL 3**

**Rabbi Ben Newman:**

**"Navigating the Narrow Bridge: Staying Calm in Fearful Times"**

Rabbi Newman is the Jewish Life Coordinator at the Shames JCC. He is also on staff at Temple Beth Shalom in Hastings, as well as the founder and spiritual leader of Shtiebel, a new paradigm Jewish community in the Rivertowns of Westchester, NY. He served for 7 years as the rabbi of Congregation Har Shalom in Fort Collins, CO, along with his wife Rabbi Shoshana Leis. Rabbi Ben received a B.A. from Skidmore College in Religion and Culture, an M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and rabbinical ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York. He previously served as the Associate Rabbi for JRF Congregation M'vakshe Derekh in Scarsdale, New York.



**MAY 1**

**Rabbi David Holtz:**

**"Responding to Difficult Moments in our Lives: Tools from Mussar"**

Rabbi Holtz was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1987. After serving six years as the Associate Rabbi at Har Sinai Congregation in Baltimore, he was called to the pulpit of Temple Beth Abraham in 1993, where he is their spiritual leader for over 25 years. In addition to his many congregational responsibilities, Rabbi Holtz is very involved in the local community. He is the past-president of the Westchester Board of Rabbis, made up of rabbis of every denomination. Rabbi Holtz is a member of the Rivertowns Clergy Association, which works to improve interfaith relations, and which serves as an important moral voice in the community.



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*\*The Rivertowns Jewish Consortium is a group that includes Greenburgh Hebrew Center, Mishkan Ha'am, Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns, Temple Beth Abraham, Temple Beth Shalom, Woodlands Community Temple, and the Shames JCC on the Hudson.*



**Register for one or at [shamesjcc.org/rivertownsclergy](http://shamesjcc.org/rivertownsclergy)**