



# GOD TALK

**“For believers, there are no questions;  
for skeptics, there are no answers.”**

—Menahem Mendel

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

ALL CLASSES: WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

### CREATION

- October 21 *This I (Used to) Believe:* Issues of Faith and Doubt  
October 28 *In the Beginning:* Creationism and Evolution  
November 4 *The Power to Choose:* Fate vs. Free Will

### REVELATION

- January 20 *The ONE for All Time:* Does God Change?  
January 27 *Out of This World:* The Mundane and the Miraculous  
February 3 *Mystical and Magical:* God in Kabbalah

### REDEMPTION

- April 14 *The Good, The Bad, The Divine:* Reward and Punishment  
April 21 *Saving Grace:* Messianic Ideas  
April 28 *For God's Sake:* From Jewish Atheism to Martyrdom



- **CLASS SCHEDULE:** All sessions will meet at The Temple, Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. You are encouraged to participate in as many classes as you can, even if you cannot attend every class in the series.
- **CLASS FORMAT:** The format will vary from class to class and may incorporate guided text study, class discussions, break-out groups, questions and answers, and other activities. Some outside reading may be recommended but will not be required. Each 90-minute class is self-contained.
- **INSTRUCTORS:** Each class will be lead by one or both of The Temple rabbis, Mark Schifftan or Shana Goldstein Mackler.
- **REGISTRATION:** Advance registration is not required.
- **COST:** There is no registration fee to participate.
- **SUPPLIES:** Some recommended reading material may be provided, and books may be suggested for participants to purchase.
- **LOCATION:** All classes will be held at The Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

# SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

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## RABBI MICHAEL KLEIN-KATZ

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2009

A Philadelphia native, Michael Klein-Katz received his honorary Doctor of Divinity, M.A. in Hebrew Literature and Rabbinic Ordination from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Having served Reform congregations in America for more than a decade, he settled in Jerusalem, where he has devoted himself to interreligious and intercultural dialogue, adult education, medical clowning, and religious tourism. Rabbi Klein-Katz has founded, led and furthered Jewish-Christian study groups, Arab-Jewish projects, and courses for the study of Judaism by Jews and non-Jews alike. He is a major contributor and editor of a number of scholarly works, including *The Encyclopedia of Judaism*; *The Dictionary of Jewish Biography*, and “Recent Reform Liturgical Developments.” He is the editor-in-chief of *Diversity in Unity: Sources for the Modern Jew*, an introduction to liberal Judaism in Russian translation for Israel’s newest and largest immigrant community.

## TINA WASSERMAN

JANUARY 8-9, 2010

Tina Wasserman is an award-winning cooking instructor, specializing in contemporary kosher cuisine. Trained in nutrition and education, Wasserman holds degrees from Syracuse University and New York University, and is a popular food educator in her own cooking school and as a scholar-in-residence in communities across North America. In 1994, she was elected to Les Dames d’Escoffier, an international culinary society that honors women in the food and beverage industry, in recognition of her reputation as one of the few outstanding women in the country teaching kosher cooking. Wasserman’s articles have been published in *The Washington Post*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Dallas Morning News*, and she has been the food columnist for *Reform Judaism* magazine since 2003. She lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and is the proud mother of two grown children.

## RABBI RAMI SHAPIRO

DECEMBER 12, 2009

Rabbi Rami Shapiro is an award winning author, poet, essayist, and educator whose poems have been anthologized in over a dozen volumes, and whose prayers are used in prayer books around the world. Rami received rabbinical ordination from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and holds both PhD and DD degrees. A congregational rabbi for 20 years, Rabbi Rami is currently Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. In addition to writing books, Rami writes a regular column for *Spirituality and Health* magazine called Roadside Assistance for the Spiritual Traveler, and blogs at rabbirami.blogspot.com. His most recent book is *Recovery, The Sacred Art*. He can be reached via his website, rabbirami.com/.

## RABBI RIFAT SONSINO

MARCH 5-7, 2010

Rabbi Rifat Sonsino is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, Ma. and an adjunct professor at Boston College’s Theology Department. He earned a degree in law from the University of Istanbul, Turkey, in 1959, and received his rabbinic ordination in 1966 from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Sonsino holds a PhD in Bible and ancient Near Eastern studies, and his articles on Bible and Judaica have appeared in a number of scholarly journals. He wrote the book *Motive Clauses in Hebrew Law* and co-authored the books *Finding God: Selected Responses*; *What Happens After I Die? Jewish Views of Life After Death*; *Six Jewish Spiritual Paths*; *The Many Faces of God: A Reader of Modern Jewish Theologies*; and *Did Moses Really Have Horns? And Other Myths About Jews and Judaism*. Rabbi Sonsino was the editor of the *CCAR Journal* from 1997 to 2001. In 1991, the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion bestowed upon Rabbi Sonsino an honorary doctorate in recognition of his 25 years in the Rabbinate.

# W.E.L.L.:

## Women Engaged in Living and Learning

October 18, 2009	Jewish Women, Jewish Heroes
November 9, 2009	Nashville Jewish Film Festival
December 14, 2009	Chanukkah Party, 7 p.m.
January 8-9, 2010	Shabbaton with Tina Wasserman
February 19-21, 2010	Retreat Weekend at Drouillard House
March 14, 2010	Jewish Women, Jewish Heroes
May 30, 2010	Jewish Women, Jewish Heroes

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## MUSSAR MINDFULNESS

### STRIVING FOR THE BEST WITHIN OURSELVES, GUIDED BY JEWISH WISDOM AND CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES

Practiced in a number of Reform Synagogues today, Mussar is a method of exploration and realization of the inner spiritual self, thereby improving our interpersonal relationships and ultimately contributing to a better world. The way of Mussar involves the practices of introspection, meditation, readings, daily practice, journaling, and other work with our spiritual "soul traits", such as humility, gratitude, compassion, order, generosity, loving-kindness, silence, patience, and enthusiasm. We'll guide ourselves by the book, *The Spiritual Path of Mussar – Everyday Holiness*, by Alan Morinis. We meet the first Wednesdays of the month at 7:15 p.m. For more information, please call Martin Sir, 419-8325, or David Barton, 352-6442.



Save the Date: December 12, 2009  
Mussar Shabbaton with Rabbi Rami Shapiro

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<b>ONGOING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.	Chevrah Torah Study
	Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.	Lunch with the Rabbi
	Thursdays, Noon	Women's Torah Study

**FOR UPDATED INFORMATION** about all programs, consult *The Temple Kol Shalom*, weekly Temple e-mail, Shabbat inserts, and *The Temple* calendar online at [www.templenashville.org](http://www.templenashville.org).  
**QUESTIONS?** Call The Temple, 615.352.7620.



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