

2026-2027 Melton Class Schedule

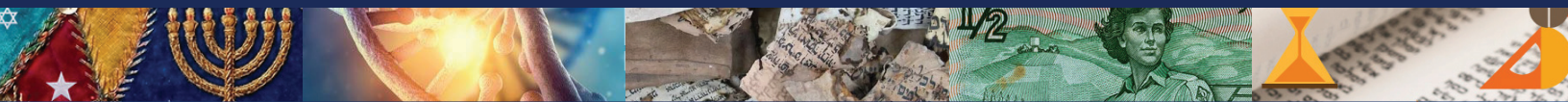


B'NAI TORAH
CONGREGATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:
btcboca.org/melton

2026- 2027

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning



13 Years of Inspiring Learning

We are excited to offer another outstanding year of classes taught by your favorite instructors. In our ongoing effort to serve all members of our community, classes will be available in a variety of formats.

COURSE INFORMATION

This brochure provides complete details for each course, including the location (in person, Zoom, or hybrid format), day of the week, start date, class time, instructor, and a full course description. All Melton courses require advance registration and payment of tuition.

TUITION

- **6-week classes: \$179**
- **10-week classes: \$295**

CLASS FORMATS

- **In Person**
- **Zoom**
- **Hybrid** (In-person and/or via Zoom)

CLASSES LOCATIONS:

- **B'nai Torah Congregation**
- **Congregation B'nai Israel**
- **Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center (JCC)**
- **Zoom**
- **Temple Beth El**

COURSE MATERIALS

Melton International is transitioning to Amazon Publishing for both print and digital course materials.

- **Print Coursebooks: \$30 per book**
- **eBooks: \$2.95 per book**

If you have Amazon Prime, print coursebooks ship free directly to your home. eBooks may be downloaded to a Kindle device or accessed through the Kindle app.

During this transition period, coursebooks will not be purchased during registration. Information regarding course materials for fall classes will be provided after registration.

REGISTRATION

Scan the code or online at:

btc boca.org/melton



QUESTIONS

Please contact Penina Bredoff,
South Palm Beach Melton Director at
melton@bnai-torah.org or
561-392-8566



Melton Fall 2026 Class Schedule

Jewish Medical Ethics: A 21st Century Discussion

Instructor: **Dr. Dan Oren** 10-WEEK CLASS

MONDAYS 7:00-8:30 pm *Begins November 2, 2026*

HYBRID • IN-PERSON at B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION



Human cloning. Genetic identity. Assisted suicide. Surrogacy. Significant progress – but thorny ethical issues. Modern medical advances can improve and prolong life but also raise dilemmas about its sanctity and dignity – and Judaism has a lot to say about it. This 10-session course explores the positive, negative, beneficial, and detrimental aspects of the new technologies in the medical field and the wisdom Judaism offers us in our encounters with them. The course was designed and written by world-renowned medical ethicist, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD (author of *Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics*).

Jewish Medical Ethics: A 21st Century Discussion

Instructor: **Marion Hirschmann** 10-WEEK CLASS

MONDAYS 10:00-11:30 am *Begins November 9, 2026*

IN-PERSON ONLY • ADOLPH AND ROSE LEVIS JCC



Human cloning. Genetic identity. Assisted suicide. Surrogacy. Significant progress – but thorny ethical issues. Modern medical advances can improve and prolong life but also raise dilemmas about its sanctity and dignity – and Judaism has a lot to say about it. This 10-session course explores the positive, negative, beneficial, and detrimental aspects of the new technologies in the medical field and the wisdom Judaism offers us in our encounters with them. The course was designed and written by world-renowned medical ethicist, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD (author of *Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics*).

Timeless Wisdom from the Books of Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Song of Songs

Instructor: **Rabbi David Steinhardt** 10-WEEK CLASS

TUESDAYS 10:00-11:30 am *Begins October 13, 2026*

HYBRID • IN-PERSON at B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION



Delve into the mysteries of these ancient scrolls as they muse over the meaning of life, describe national suffering, and depict the power of love. In this 10-part course, selections of these biblical texts will be examined through the lens of commentaries— ancient and contemporary—as they uncover and untangle the complex and everlasting messages about our relationship to the Divine, Humanity and everyday life.

MONDAY

TUESDAY





Melton Fall 2026 Class Schedule

WEDNESDAY

We the People: The American Jewish Experience

Instructors in rotation: **Rabbi Cy Stanway,**

Rabbi Erica Rosenkranz and Rabbi Robert Silvers

10-WEEK CLASS **WEDNESDAYS 10:30 am-Noon**

Begins November 4, 2026

HYBRID • IN-PERSON at CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



We are excited to share the development of a fully revised version of our Melton course, ***Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders***, led by renowned Melton educator Dr. Joellyn Zollman. This project represents a reimagining of one of our most popular courses into a contemporary, essential exploration of American Jewish identity, history, and belonging, designed to engage thousands of learners worldwide. The course moves beyond earlier, East Coast-centric and Ashkenormative narratives to present the full diversity and complexity of Jewish life in the United States. Across ten lessons, it highlights Sephardi communities, Jewish life beyond major metropolitan centers, and key themes such as antisemitism, racism, food culture, Jewish women's public leadership, and the future of American Jewry.

THURSDAY

We the People: The American Jewish Experience

Instructor: **Marion Hirschmann** 10-WEEK CLASS

THURSDAYS 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Begins October 8, 2026

HYBRID • IN-PERSON AT B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION



We are excited to share the development of a fully revised version of our Melton course, ***Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders***, led by renowned Melton educator Dr. Joellyn Zollman. This project represents a reimagining of one of our most popular courses into a contemporary, essential exploration of American Jewish identity, history, and belonging, designed to engage thousands of learners worldwide. The course moves beyond earlier, East Coast-centric and Ashkenormative narratives to present the full diversity and complexity of Jewish life in the United States. Across ten lessons, it highlights Sephardi communities, Jewish life beyond major metropolitan centers, and key themes such as antisemitism, racism, food culture, Jewish women's public leadership, and the future of American Jewry.





Melton Fall 2026 Class

SUNDAY

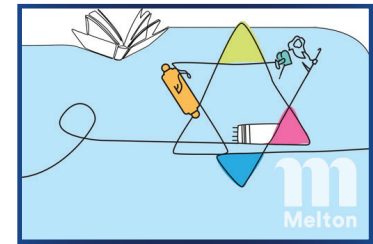
Members of the Tribe: **Cornerstones of Jewish Identity**

Instructors in rotation: **Rabbi Greg Weisman and Rabbi Laila Haas**

6-WEEK CLASS SUNDAYS 10:00-11:30 am

Begins October 11, 2026

HYBRID • IN-PERSON AT TEMPLE BETH EL'S SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS



What does it really mean to be Jewish today? In a world where identity is constantly questioned and belonging is complex, this six-session course offers a powerful exploration of what ties us together as a people. More than a history lesson, this is a vital conversation about what it means to be Jewish right now. From the story of the Exodus to the meaning of "Chosenness," from daily rituals like Kashrut to the role of Israel as a central focus for Jewish identity, we'll unpack the values, symbols, and struggles that shape our people and find their connection to our daily lives. Together, we'll wrestle with big questions, discover personal meaning, and uncover how understanding "the Tribe" – our shared history, values, and responsibilities – gives us tools to respond to the challenges of our time, both individually and collectively. Join us on this journey to empower us to live more meaningful Jewish lives and create a more just world.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:
btc boca.org/melton





Melton Winter 2027 Class Schedule

We the People: The American Jewish Experience

Instructor: **Harvey Leven** 10-WEEK CLASS

MONDAYS 7:00-8:30 pm *Begins February 8, 2027*

ZOOM



We are excited to share the development of a fully revised version of our Melton course, *Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders*, led by renowned Melton educator Dr. Joellyn Zollman. This project represents a reimagining of one of our most popular courses into a contemporary, essential exploration of American Jewish identity, history, and belonging, designed to engage thousands of learners worldwide. The course moves beyond earlier, East Coast-centric and Ashkenormative narratives to present the full diversity and complexity of Jewish life in the United States. Across ten lessons, it highlights Sephardi communities, Jewish life beyond major metropolitan centers, and key themes such as antisemitism, racism, food culture, Jewish women's public leadership, and the future of American Jewry.

Understanding Zionism: The Return to the Jewish Homeland

Instructor: **Marion Hirschmann** 10-WEEK CLASS

MONDAYS 10:00-11:30 am *Begins February 1, 2027*

IN-PERSON ONLY • ADOLPH AND ROSE LEVIS JCC



The story of Zionism is remarkable and without parallel. It is a story of a people exiled from their homeland, a people that despite having suffered from prejudice and oppression for 2,000 years, maintained a strong identity, never losing faith with the dream of an eventual return home. This course examines how these ancient dreams took on new religious, cultural, national, and political dimensions that actualized into the Zionist Enterprise--culminating in the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The story continues with questions around the meaning of Zionism today, its relationship with the Jewish people in the Diaspora, and some of the contemporary challenges it faces – most notably, the intense criticism of Zionism and the State of Israel, particularly in the aftermath of October 7, 2023 – inviting a deeper reflection on the values, resilience, and relevance of Zionism in the modern era.

With the current pervasive misrepresentation of Zionism seen today, this course presents a nuanced multi-faceted perspective based on primary sources, firsthand accounts, and official documents.

Join us to deepen your understanding of how and why the State of Israel came into being, and its significance for you personally and for the Jewish people as a whole.





Melton Winter 2027 Class Schedule

Exploring a Forgotten World: A Social History of Medieval Jewry as Revealed in the Cairo Genizah

Instructors in rotation: **Rabbi Cy Stanway,**
Rabbi Erica Rosenkranz and Rabbi Robert Silvers

10-WEEK CLASS **WEDNESDAYS 10:30 am-Noon**

Begins February 3, 2027

HYBRID • IN-PERSON at CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Enjoy a front-row seat to the drama, gossip, legal transactions, and other daily intrigues of Jewish life — in the Middle Ages. This 10-session course brings to life an exotic era in Jewish history, revealing the inner thoughts of real-life characters through the Cairo Genizah, a collection of 400,000 worn-out scraps, text fragments, and documents buried for centuries. Interpreting textual evidence yields new insights into the daily interactions and behaviors of Jewish men, women and families living along the Mediterranean more than 1,000 years ago — and at root, how similar they are to our own family dynamics, business ventures and communal concerns today. Join us for a historical journey of intrigue and adventure!

A History of Hatred: The Ever-Present Threat of Antisemitism

Instructors in rotation: **Rabbi Laila Haas and**
Rabbi Greg Weisman

6-WEEK CLASS **WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 PM**

Begins January 27, 2027 (NO CLASS MARCH 3)

HYBRID • IN-PERSON AT TEMPLE BETH EL'S SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS



Antisemitism has been described as a virus that mutates. In each historical period, hatred of Jews takes on a different form or focus, often as a reaction to the prevailing ideology of the time – be it religious, racist, or political. In the aftermath of the October 7 massacre and the ongoing war in Gaza, antisemitism is, once again, reaching levels not seen since the Holocaust. Therefore, it is crucial for learners to understand the historical processes that have given rise to today's antisemitism. This understanding will help them comprehend the underlying forces and the recurring tropes used to depict Jews and the Jewish State over time. In this six-part course, learners will explore pivotal periods, such as the interactions between Jews and early Christianity and Islam, medieval manifestations in Christian Europe, the rise of racially motivated antisemitism leading to the Holocaust, the influence of communism and Islamism on perceptions of Jews, and the contemporary landscape of antisemitism, encompassing both extreme right-wing and left-wing ideologies. Join us to deepen your understanding of the development of antisemitism since ancient times.

WEDNESDAY





Melton Winter 2027 Class

THURSDAY

Timeless Tales, Modern Sensibilities: A Deep Look at the Books of Esther & Ruth

Instructor: **Marion Hirschmann** 10-WEEK CLASS

THURSDAYS 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Begins January 14, 2027

HYBRID • IN-PERSON AT B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION



Discover contemporary meaning in timeless texts during this ten-lesson course on the stories in the Scrolls of Esther and Ruth. Explore themes of Jewish identity, gender, God's role in human affairs, and comedy. Delve into the lives of these two heroic women who changed the course of history, leaving a legacy that influences our lives today.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:

btc boca.org/melton



Melton Fall 2026 Class Instructors



MARION HIRSCHMANN has been a Melton educator in Boca Raton since the early 1990s and was one of Florence Melton's personal teachers. Born in South Africa, she holds degrees in Speech Pathology, Judaics, and Modern Hebrew Literature. After moving to Israel in 1987, she worked with "Micha," supporting children with hearing challenges. In Boca Raton, she has taught hundreds of adults across nearly the full Melton curriculum.



DAN OREN, MD is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Adjunct) at Yale University and has served as Visiting Professor of Physiology at the University of Rzeszów, Poland. He graduated from Yale School of Medicine and has been licensed as a physician for more than 40 years. He is author or co-author of numerous articles in medicine or Jewish history and three books. He has served as Secretary of the Institutional Review Board (ethical research committee) of the National Institute of Mental Health intramural program and as a member of the corresponding panel at Yale School of Medicine.



RABBI ERICA ROSENKRANZ serves as Senior Associate Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel. Previously, she was the Director of Community Engagement for the Holocaust Survivors Initiative and Campus Rabbi at Morselife Health System. Before joining Morselife, Rosenkranz worked in the community planning department at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. Earlier in her career, she served as Campus Rabbi for Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach, where she supported and engaged Jewish students throughout the region. She is a graduate of Binghamton University and received her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College.



RABBI LAILA HAAS is a gifted teacher and innovative spiritual leader, she is passionate about creating meaningful and engaging Jewish experiences. Ordained in 2011 by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, she feels deeply honored to be invited into people's lives in moments of joy and sorrow and walk alongside them as they navigate their Jewish journey. At Temple Beth El she is deeply involved in guiding the Adult Learning and Engagement programming and focused on the work of Spiritual Growth and Ritual. She is involved in the Boca Raton Jewish community serving on the Boards of Rales Jewish Family Services and Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. Prior to joining Temple Beth El she served as Director of Adult Learning and Growth for the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education and as the Director of the Melton School of Miami.



Melton Winter 2027 Class Instructors



RABBI ROBERT SILVERS has served Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton since 1994 and named Rabbi Emeritus in 2021. Ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion, he brings a unique background in both Reform and Conservative traditions. A dedicated educator and interfaith leader, he has taught for the Melton School and staffed the March of the Living.



RABBI CY STANWAY will serve as our Senior Interim Rabbi for 2026–2027. He brings a lifetime of service in the congregational rabbinate, having served communities in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Elberon, New Jersey. Most recently, Rabbi Cy served as Interim Rabbi in Gainesville, Florida, from June 2025 through July 2026. Rabbi Stanway attended York University in Toronto, where he earned a degree in Psychology. He graduated from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1987 and received his Doctor of Divinity in 2012.



RABBI DAVID STEINHARDT has served Rabbi of B'nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton from 1994-2025, leading its growth into a nationally recognized synagogue. Named Rabbi Emeritus in 2025, he has taught Melton classes since the 1990s and was instrumental in relaunching the program in 2014. Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1982, he holds a Master's in Hebrew Literature and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Connecticut. In retirement, he will continue to teach Melton amongst many other classes.



RABBI GREG WEISMAN is Senior Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, where he has served since 2013. He has held numerous leadership roles in the local Jewish and interfaith communities, and led an Introduction to Judaism program for 10 years. He was ordained and earned an M.A. in Jewish Education at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and a B.A. in philosophy and political science from Boston University.

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Save the Dates



Melton Conference of Learners Join us November 16-19, 2026, at the **American Jewish University-Brandeis** **Bardin Campus, Simi Valley, CA**

You won't want to miss the Melton Conference of Learners, a transformative four-day experience, where curious minds from around the globe can come together to learn – first and foremost – to explore, and to grow. This event – created by Melton learners and educators for Melton learners and educators – features educational sessions with the most gifted educators and hands-on experiences that cater to learners of all experience levels and affiliations. Our goal is to provide an environment where you can gain insights, experience

the joy of building camaraderie and community, and leave with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to Jewish life.

Whether you're a seasoned learner or just beginning your educational journey, this conference is designed for you. It's a unique opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, deepen your understanding, and connect with a community of learners committed to making a positive impact in our world.

Our third Conference of Learners will center around "The Jewish People at a Crossroads." Come learn with some of the best Jewish educators and speakers in Los Angeles, including **keynote speaker Sarah Tuttle-Singer** of *The Times of Israel*, as we come together to learn and grow at this vital moment in our history. Learners of all experience levels and affiliation are welcome to benefit from this conference created with you – our learners – in mind!"

For more information and to register: meltonschool.org/learn/conference-of-learners



Melton
@ B'nai Torah
Alumni Association

13th Annual
SPEAKER BRUNCH

Sunday
February 28, 2027
10:30 a.m.

Honoring
Marion Hirshmann
and friends

At B'nai Torah Congregation



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:
btcboca.org/melton

