

Back To The Books

Learning Is breakfast, lunch and dinner far.

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With the new year comes the renewal of study, a natural pursuit for the "people of the book." And school is not just for kids: witness the emphasis on Jewish continuity these days, with education round the generational clock. While kids are preparing for bar and bat mitzvah, so are their parents and grandparents.

But for adults juggling responsibilities of job and/or family, time may be short for the luxury of learning.

Jewish communal organizations keep that in mind when planning their adult-ed offerings. Lunch hours, pre- and post-dinnertime, even mornings are filled with opportunities.

For example, the West Side Jewish Center in Manhattan offers a 6 a.m. Talmud class on weekdays, at 347 W. 34th St.

Lunch hour is not wasted by Rabbi Annette Perl of Congregation Beth Sholom Chabad in Mineola, L.I., who attracts a regular crew to his Wednesday "Lunch 'n' Learn" sessions focusing on "Torah views of modern issues."

And after the kids are in bed, the Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Early Childhood Association are co-sponsoring two free workshops for Jewish parents at locations in both Westchester and Queens.

The following list is not meant to be comprehensive. Many more classes and programs are listed in this issue's local pages. For additional offerings, contact local synagogues, Jewish communal organizations and colleges.

Continuity

Continuity — keeping the spark of Judaism alive across generations and within communities — is foremost on the minds of Jewish educators across the denominational spectrum.

Using the home as a classroom, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations is planning to launch a "Just One Shabbat" program next Chanukah, urging families to invite Jewish friends over for a Sabbath. The program will provide a list of recommended sources and questions to discuss.

The Reform movement has set a mandate to encourage continuing education, and recommendations are forthcoming from its Task Force on Lifelong Learning.

And the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which also has a program encouraging congregants to host a neighbor for the Sabbath, produces educational material geared to families celebrating Sabbath and holidays.

The following programs are a few of the many designed to foster a family connection to Judaism:

■ In Manhattan, the Drisha Institute's Joseph Straus School for Continuing Education will offer a class for parents whose children are beginning their Bible studies. Focusing on the first chapters of Genesis, the 6-week course (starting Oct. 10) aims to enable parents and children to discuss texts they are learn-



Devora Steinmetz will teach "A Class for Parents" focusing on the first 11 chapters of Genesis this fall.

ing together. Call (212) 595-0307.

■ A lecture presentation focusing on "Challenge to Parents: Raising Children in An Open Society," is offered by the Board of Jewish Education this fall in both Westchester and Queens. The free programs, led by psychotherapist Dr. Henry Dicker, are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 9 p.m., Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Phebrook Blvd., (914) 235-1800; and Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 9 p.m., Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Blvd., (718) 263-7618. The programs are co-sponsored with the Jewish Early Childhood Association.

BJE also provides education for educators, through its BJE Teachers' Centers. Professionals share their approaches to teaching in workshops throughout the year across the metropolitan region. For information, call: Manhattan, (212) 245-8200, Ext. 318; Westchester, (914) 682-0584; Nassau County, (516) 785-5510; Suffolk County, (516) 549-2626.

■ For parents, an educational tool coming out this fall is an annotated Jewish Book List from the BJE. The list will provide brief descriptions of books and recommended ages, from 2-8. Call (212) 245-8200.

Holiday Preparation

There still is time to learn the basics in time for the High Holy Days.

Brooklyn:

■ A course on "The Meaning of the Rosh HaShanah Prayers as interpreted by Rabbi Yosef Soloveitchik" starts Sunday, August 21, at 8 p.m. in Borough Park. Admission is free. For location, call (718) 851-1004.

Queens:

■ A free course on the meaning of the High Holy Days and rituals starts Tuesday, August 23, 8 p.m., at Young Israel of Forest Hills, 7100 Yellowstone Blvd. (718) 268-7100.

■ "The Sound of the New Year" is planned for Thursday, August 25, at the Holliswood Jewish Center, 86-25 Francis Lewis Blvd. For times, call (718) 776-8500.

Long Island:

■ An ongoing crash course on the High Holy Days continues 7:30 p.m. on Wednes-

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