

Concierge Judaism

Personalized Jewish Experience Matched to Your Schedule

Home Theme Parties (Symposium)

Before the Temple was destroyed, before synagogues,

Rabbis started as guest facilitators for theme parties.

The scholar would quote things that would stimulate discussion on a topic.

Temple Beth El of Troy is re-establishing this form for the 21 Century.

We supply Rabbi Kasman at no cost or obligation to be the rabbi at your home party.

Here are some suggested topics.

“L’chayim: Drink Up”

What is the origin of the toast L’chayim? Why is Manischewitz Wine so sweet? How do you fulfill the mitzvah of honoring your father if he is an alcoholic? Temple Beth El supplies Rabbi Kasman and the first bottle of wine or a six-pack of He’brew. (Proof of Age Required)

Jewish Exceptionalism: Pride and Shame

Jews out perform the general population in Nobel Prizes and Pulitzer Prizes. More than 20% percent of students in Ivy League schools are Jewish. These are examples of ways Jews out-perform the general population. Why is this so? How can we take pride in Jewish accomplishments in ways that do not inspire resentment and jealousy of non-Jews? Rabbi Kasman does not answer these questions, but he brings facts and facilitates discussion on this important topic.

Jewish Magic: What would be on the curriculum if Hogwarts were a Jewish School

According to legend, the first rabbis were magic users. Spells, Potions, Transformations, Magical Creatures and of course Defense Against the Dark Arts were all talked about at the first rabbinic academy at Yavneh. Rabbi Kasman will quote some classical sources from the Talmud about these things and facilitate discussion about how we should understand Jewish law when it came mixed up with fantastic stories.

Web Presence

What do you come up with if you Google “Judaism” or “Jew?” How does it compare with the way you think of our religion? Hook up a laptop to your big screen. Rabbi Kasman will facilitate a tour of the World Wide Web and a discussion of what we must look like someone experiencing their Jews through the Virtual world. Also available, Parody Sing Along Night with Jewish Youtube.

Movie Nights

Temple Beth El of Troy

There’s so much going on here!

For more information on these programs, or on any of our programs or religious services, please contact us at 518-272-6113.

Pop in a DVD and watch together with your friends. Rabbi Kasman will facilitate a discussion after the flick. Temple Beth El of Troy will supply popcorn. Films included “Jews in Baseball: an American Love Story” and “Broadway Musicals: a Jewish Legacy.”

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Office Luncheons

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Maybe you have a conference table in your office.
Why not sponsor a luncheon/symposium taking advantage of a rabbinic facilitator?

Here are some suggested topics.

The Art of Saying “You Are Both Right”

Rabbis Disagree. The core of rabbinic Judaism is argument not dogma. Some of these disagreements go back more than two thousand years, yet we still function together as a group. So does every discussion in your office have to end with choosing a winner? Rabbi Kasman stimulates a discussion on this topic.

Defining Honesty

As children we learn an absolute definition of “Truth.” Functioning as adults, especially in a business environment, we adjust the truth in more nuanced ways. Sometimes it is really inappropriate to share everything you know. Rabbi Kasman facilitates a discussion to reach mutual understanding about how much “Truth” is “Integrity.”

Religion in the Workplace

American Jews tend to want their workplace to be a religion free zone. But like everyone else, Jews tend to think of the norms we learn as children as being “Universal” rather than Jewish. Also, some non-Jews are judging Judaism based on the Jews they know at the office. Rabbi Kasman facilitates a discussion on the roles religion and Judaism play in the professional environment.

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Dedicate Your New Home or Office

Rabbi Kasman will be honored to hang a Mezuzah on Your New Home or Office
Temple Beth El will supply a Mezuzah if you would like.

Haftarah Lessons

Do you read Hebrew but don't know the trop?

Rabbi Kasman will schedule 4 private lessons to get you ready to read any Haftarah.
If you have never celebrated being a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and are over thirteen, then
celebrate on us! We'll schedule you a party at our shul, no synagogue fees or
membership required.

Free Interfaith Consult

Almost every family has both Jewish and non-Jewish members. Holidays, divorce,
death, personal spiritual evolution can all develop into challenges to family unity. Rabbi
Kasman is a Certified Chaplain who serves in religious environments of many faiths. He
has a degree in Comparative Religions from Columbia University. He is available to
help work with a family to work for compromise.

Incremental Kashrut

Keeping Kosher is not an all or nothing proposition. Many people have a Jewish identity
that includes a share of kashrut: Kosher home but not kosher out; kosher meat, but not
separate plates, prefer heckshered product. Some Jews order hot and sour soup at the
Chinese restaurant and pull out as many of the floating pieces of pork they can find.
Rabbi Kasman would be happy to have a private consultation to talk about how a single
step in your kosher life could be a satisfying religious experience.

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Concierge Judaism for Parents

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Making a Mini-Shabbat Set

Private for Toddler or Pre-Schoolers

Put all of Shabbat in the palms of your child's hands. Bake a tiny challah. Make a mini-kiddush cup. Light some birthday sized candles and make shabbos for your child's doll or stuffed animal every week. Rabbi Kasman will as a "Parent and Child" family experience help you create this personalized treasure in your homes so that you can experience Shabbat as a family every week.

Tailored Jewish Learning for School Children and Teens

Does your schedule conflict with established models for Jewish learning? Rabbi Kasman is a full member of the Jewish Educators Assembly and is prepared to help families plan alternatives. Private family learning experiences and Sabbath experience can be more enriching than Hebrew School or Day School. Older children closer to Bar Mitzvah age brought swiftly to celebration of this milestone without commitment to three day a week religious school.

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