Judaism: A 2020 Vision
Ancient Traditions Through a Contemporary Lens

Join us for these upcoming Judaism: A 2020 Vision programs

What Does Judaism Say About…
Tuesdays, 8 AM: 11/5, 12/10, 2/4, 3/17, 4/14, 5/5
Congregation Beth El,
1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield

Bridging Divides in 2020:
A Concert for Harmony and Wholeness
Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 PM | Temple Israel,
14 Coleytown Road, Westport

Chanukah Modern Mosaics Workshop
Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:30 AM | Temple Shalom,
259 Richards Ave., Norwalk

Jews and Tattoos:
A Conversation for Families
Sunday Dec. 8, 4 PM | Candlewood Market,
85 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield

The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 PM | The Westport Library,
20 Jesup Road, Westport

"Bob Dylan’s Jewish Music"
with Rabbi Stephen Karol
Sunday, Jan. 26, 3 PM | Congregation Shir Shalom,
46 Peaceable St., Ridgefield

From the Margins to the Center:
The Transformative Power of Inclusive Torah
Sunday, Jan. 26, 10 AM | Congregation Beth El-Norwalk, 109 East Ave., Norwalk

Here all Along:
Finding Meaning, Spirituality and a Deeper Connection to Life — in Judaism
Saturday, Feb. 1, 7 PM | Congregation Beth El-Norwalk, 109 East Ave., Norwalk

Community Read
kaddish.com by Nathan Englander
Book Discussions
Monday Feb. 24, 5 PM: Fairfield University
Sunday, Mar. 1, 3 PM: The Westport Library

300 Ways to Enliven, Enrich and Modernize Your Seder
Sunday, Mar. 1, 9:30 AM | Temple Shalom,
259 Richards Ave., Norwalk

Engaging Interfaith Families for a Thriving Jewish Future
Sunday, Mar. 1, 5 PM | Congregation B’nai Torah, 5700 Main St., Trumbull

Repairing the World…
One Magic Trick at a Time
Featuring Arthur Kurzweil
Wednesday, Mar. 29, 3 PM | Congregation Shir Shalom, 46 Peaceable St., Ridgefield

Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim
Sunday Apr. 19, 12 noon | Temple Shalom,
259 Richards Ave., Norwalk

An Afternoon of Klezmer with Radio KLEZ
Sunday, June 7, 3 PM | Congregation B’nai Israel, 2710 Park Ave, Bridgeport

Jewish Pride:
Celebrating the Rainbow of Humanity
Sunday, June 14, 4 PM | Temple B’nai Chaim, 82 Portland Ave., Wilton

Information & registration: shalomct.org/Judaism2020 or 203-226-8197
The Contrasts and Commonalities of the Noah Story in Three Faith Traditions

Rabbi Marcelo Kormis joined Congregation Beth El Fairfield as spiritual leader in 2012, after serving in Santiago, Chile as Associate Rabbi of the Circulo Israelita congregation and as head of Judaic Studies at Instituto Hebreo. He studied at the Seminario Rabínico in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Haifa University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Rabbi Kormis serves as University Chaplain and adjunct lecturer at Sacred Heart University, and as Jewish Chaplain for the Fairfield Police Department. He is a member of the Fairfield Board of Rabbis, Fairfield Clergy Association, Town of Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Committee, and Greater Bridgeport Tent of Abraham Interfaith Group. He hosts a podcast series with a priest and an imam entitled, “An imam, a priest and a rabbi walk into a bar…” Rabbi Kormis and his wife, Fernanda Auba, have four children.

Imam Gazmend “Gazi” Aga, currently a Chaplain at Sacred Heart University, brings years of experience working in religious education, youth issues, social affairs, nonprofit organizations, media, and interfaith dialogue. Imam Aga was vice-chairman of the Muslim Community of Albania and currently serves as the Imam of the Albanian American Muslim Community in Waterbury. He studied for his PhD at Epoka University in Albania and attended Marmara University in Turkey and the Hartford Seminary. Imam Aga is one of “The Three Amigos,” an interfaith clergy group in Southbury. He is the father of two and married to Fatma.

Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. entered the Society of Jesus in 1975, and earned a master’s degree in divinity and a master’s of theology in social ethics at the Weston School of Theology. He was ordained in 1984. Previous to his ordination, he earned a BS in physics at Cornell University and a master’s degree and PhD in electrical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Fr. McFarland served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Gonzaga University and as President of the College of the Holy Cross. In 2013, Fr. McFarland became the treasurer of the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus. He is a member of the boards of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, Campion Center, the J. Homer Butler Foundation, the Eclesiastical Faculty of Boston College, St. Peter’s Prep, St. Louis University, and Boston College High School, and is the chair of the Jesuit Health Trust, which funds the healthcare of all Jesuits in the U.S.

Moderator David Weisberg has served as the CEO of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County since August 2016. He has an interest in the intersection of Jewish values and contemporary issues. Prior to joining the Federation, David has led several national organizations focused on Judaism and sustainability, including Friends of the Arava Institute, which provides support for a university-level environmental program focused on the Middle East; the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center; and Hazon, the largest Jewish environmental non-profit in North America.

Panel Two:
The Biblical Flood: A Scientific Perspective

A. Karim Ahmed, PhD is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of the National Council for Science and the Environment, and an adjunct professor in Public Health at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Previously, Dr. Ahmed was Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Program on Health, Environment, and Development at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C. He has served on a number of high-level advisory committees and technical panels of national and international government agencies and scientific institutions.

William B.F. Ryan, PhD is co-author of Noah’s Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event that Changed History. He is senior scholar of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Marine Geology and Geophysics at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, where he also serves as adjunct professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and special research scientist in Biology Paleoenvironment.

Mary Evelyn Tucker, PhD is co-founder and co-director of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University, where she is senior lecturer and senior research scholar at the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. She is also co-creator of Journey of the Universe Film, Book, & Conversations, and author/editor of 20 volumes and hundreds of articles. She teaches in the joint MA program in religion and ecology.

Moderator Rev. Stephanie M. Johnson is the Rector and Eco-Minister of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Riverside, CT. Following a career as a city planner, Rev. Johnson studied at Yale Divinity School and Cambridge University and was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 2010. She earned a master’s degree in Sacred Theology from Yale in 2013 and served at St. Ann’s Episcopal Church in Old Lyme and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Fairfield. Rev. Johnson is the co-author of A Life of Grace for the Whole World, a curriculum for children and adults on pastoral teaching on the environment. The book was commissioned by the Bishops of New England as a curriculum for teaching people to care for creation.

Thank you to our outstanding and distinguished panelists.

Special thanks to: Jason Ebert • Megan Lackman • Cynthia Conte • Deborah Noack • Unal Sutman • Professor Sam Goldstein • Alpha Tau Omega fraternity • Jewish Broadcasting Service