

**Thumin Bet Midrash**  
**An adult learning collaborative**  
**sponsored by**  
**Congregation Beth Ahm and B'nai Israel Synagogue**

**Mondays, October 12, 19, 26 & November 2, 9 16, 23, 30**

**7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Tuition: \$50**

*All classes meet at Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 West Maple Road in West Bloomfield*

Choose one of the following courses:

**Jewish Family Life Through the Ages**

**Instructor: Dr. Mitch Parker**



*The primary goal of this seven week course is to use primary texts to look at the continuities and discontinuities of Jewish family life from Biblical times to the present. We will investigate the roles and expectations of grandparents, parents, sons and daughters in the maintenance of the family and analyze how cultural, political and religious changes and stresses may have precipitated change over the course of time. We will listen to the words and insights of our ancestors as we try to understand what advice they can offer the members of the Jewish family today.*

*Dr. Mitch Parker is a child clinical psychologist with an office in Bloomfield Hills. He has devoted his professional career to work with the families of children with developmental and learning challenges. He is also a veteran community educator. In June he completed a study of the Torah entitled "Torah Line by Line" with a group of students who met weekly for 10 years beginning with Genesis 1:1 and ending with the last verse in Deuteronomy.*

**Chieftains, Warlords, and Terrorists: Beyond 'Judges'**

**Instructor: Rabbi Stephen Belsky**



*The Biblical book of Shoftim ("Judges") describes a time of turbulence in Ancient Israel, between the Conquest by Joshua and the rise of the Monarchy with King Saul and King David. Each tribe saw to its own affairs, sought its own goals, and committed its own sins. Add to this mix spiritual turmoil and an almost constant threat of war from nearby nations, and the time was ripe for the appearance of a varied assortment of local leaders with the inspiration, desire, and/or chutzpah to save the day. Who were these "Judges"? Who did they judge, who did they*

*fight, and who or what did they fight for? Through a close reading of their stories, we will explore these questions, as well as what lessons each of them can teach us personally and religiously today.*

*Rabbi Stephen Belsky is a graduate of the Educators Program at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and was ordained by Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York. He has taught classes to both adults and children in the New York City area and here in Michigan, and has lectured at synagogues throughout the country.*

**Advanced registration is required to Alison Blau at 248-851-6880 or [ablau@cbahm.org](mailto:ablau@cbahm.org)**

