

# Join us for a free 3 part Lecture Series: Twilight Years, End of Life and After Life

Presented by the Central Pennsylvania Small Congregations Initiative in partnership with The Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania and the Jewish Community Legacy Project.



## PART 1: Life after Life

Tuesday, January 17 at 7 PM via Zoom

[Register here](#)



**Presenter: Rabbi Yossi Zylberberg**, Beth Israel Temple, Hazelton, PA

There are many areas in modern Jewish life, especially Liberal Judaism, that have been phrased as “Judaism says X” even though that is not literally or historically true. When it comes to issues of death, the afterlife and the soul these are of practical concern to all of us. What does Judaism actually say about the nexus of Death, Afterlife and the Soul? Is Judaism silent on these topics? Are we really left with nothing but science or other religions for learned information on these issues? It is true that we have no dogma on any area but we do have much to learn if we have open minds? Let me throw out a teaser from The Book of Daniel Chapter 12:2-3,12;13), which is in our Jewish Bible:

“ Many of those who sleep in the dusty earth shall awake, some to the everlasting life, others to eternal reproach and contempt. Then the knowledge shall shine like the brightness of the sky; those who led the many to righteousness will be like the stars, forever and ever... As for you, go on to the end; you shall rest, and rise to your destiny at the end of days.”

Judaism does not have ONE point of view or ONE sacred book on this issue such as Tibetan Buddhism has (The Tibetan Book of the Dead) but there are numerous passages in the Talmud, Zohar and our liturgy that speak authoritatively on this subject. Let us consider these materials. There is a Judaism beyond Sunday School basics... way more.

**About Rabbi Zylberberg:** *I am most comfortable being referred to as “Rabbi” or “Rabbi Yossi”. I have served a number of congregations around the United States and have taught comparative religion, the Hebrew Bible and Jewish studies at a number of universities. I currently am the spiritual leader of Beth Israel Temple (Hazelton PA) a small progressive and welcoming congregation. I have been described as: “Spiritual rabbi, who has given effective leadership as a congregational rabbi and whose ministry has been one of holiness. Who inspires in his congregants the belief that all humankind is created in God's image and therefore each of us reflects holiness and who views his rabbinate as bearing witness to Jewish history and personally answering Hineni”.*

*I see Judaism as the world's best kept secret and my role is to champion its message, as I have come to see it, as a serious but irreverent spokesman. In doing so the areas I concentrate on are spirituality, teaching, rabbinical counseling and social action. The vision I see Judaism as being is progressive and universalistic, not reactionary or parochial.*

## PART 2: The Community Yizkor Book: Professor Eliyana Adler

Tuesday, March 17, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom

**Presenter: Dr. Eliyana Adler**, Penn State University

Dr. Eliyana Adler, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Penn State University

How did Jewish survivors and refugees respond to the devastation of the Holocaust? One of their less appreciated and most ambitious projects was creating hundreds of collaborative memorial volumes—yizkor books—in memory of the Jewish communities of individual villages, towns, and cities in Eastern Europe. This will explore these remarkable “monuments in paper”.

**Eliyana R. Adler** is Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. She is the author of *Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union* (2020) and *In Her Hands: The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia* (2011) and the co-editor of several works, including most recently *Jewish and Romani Families in the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (2020). Dr. Adler has published articles in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *Yad Vashem Studies*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, *Polin* and other journals and held fellowships sponsored by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem, and the German Historical Institute, among other institutions. Dr. Adler's current work focuses on East European Jewish memorial books.

## PART 3: Services for Older Adults

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom

There are many different services for our older adults , ranging from social welfare, pastoral support, to financial assistance. Be on the look out for more details to come!

**Social Welfare:** JCF (individual support), JFS (transportation, counseling, friendly visiting, etc.), JCC (health & wellness,

cultural) **Pastoral:** Panel of Rabbis, & **Financial:** Sustainability of an older adult community by the Jewish communal system

### Questions? Contact:

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