Description:
In these five sessions, we will engage in a deep reading of the Torah and Haftarah readings for the High Holidays, including God's response to Sarah and Hannah’s barrenness (Gen. 21 and 1 Sam. 1-2), the ‘Aqedah (Gen. 22), and the Book of Jonah. Special emphasis will be placed on the liturgical significance of these works in terms of the themes of Prayer and Repentance Return (teshuvah).


Beit Midrash Preparation will be from 9:00-10:45 a.m.
Class will be from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Classes:
1. **Wed. Aug. 26th: Hannah’s Prayer & paradigm of the barren wife;**
   Primary Reading: Genesis 21 and 1 Samuel 1-2.

2. **Thurs. Aug. 27th: The ‘Aqedah**
   Primary Reading: Genesis 22, Classic Midrash, and poem: “Yerusha” by Haim Guri.

3. **Monday, Aug. 31st The Binding of Sarah (‘Aqedat Sarah)**
   Primary Reading: Classic Midrashim on Sarah’s response to the ‘Aqedah; modern midrash by Rivkah Lubitch, ‘Aqedat Sarah, and poems by Alicia Ostriker and Eleanor Wilner.

4. **Tues. Sept. 1st Jonah through the Looking Glass**
   Primary Reading: Book of Jonah, selected commentary and midrashim.

Evaluation: One short paper or creative piece on the significance of the Shofar and/or Prayer for the Yamim Noraim, drawing from any of the reading we have covered this Elul (3-4 pages, approx.. 1500 words max). Due Tuesday Sept. 8th (after Labor Day).