The Jewishness of Jesus is a new field of study that has emerged among scholars and theologians in recent years. Many factors are spurring this movement on: 1) Modern Biblical scholarship that has developed over the past seventy years since the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls, including research into Jewish sources such as the Mishnah; the writings of the first century Jewish historian, Josephus; other first century records; and reexamination of the New Testament itself; 2) The Vatican II document Nostra Aetate (1965), which is a declaration of the Catholic Church’s relationship to non-Christian religions that reversed 2000 years of closed doors and teaching of contempt toward the Jewish people and Judaism and created a climate of openness, Ecumenism and Interfaith among believers throughout the world; 3) The pontificate of Pope John Paul II, who for 28 years (1978-2006) did more to reach out to the Jewish community than any other Pope in history; 4) The formation of institutes and programs whose primary function is to promote study, dialogue, and understanding between Jews and Christians, such as the Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Baltimore, Maryland. The course will consist of lecture and dialogue. A suggested, but not required book, is Rabbi Jesus by Bruce Chilton, Doubleday Image, NY, 2000. Please bring a Bible to each class.

Father Bob Albright

THE JEWISHNESS OF JESUS

Sessions I and II
Monday, 11 a.m. (begins March 5)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

The Jewishness of Jesus is a new field of study that has been emerging among scholars and theologians in recent years. Many factors are spurring this movement on: 1) Modern Biblical scholarship that has developed over the past seventy years since the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls, including research into Jewish sources such as the Mishnah; the writings of the first century Jewish historian, Josephus; other first century records; and reexamination of the New Testament itself; 2) The Vatican II document Nostra Aetate (1965), which is a declaration of the Catholic Church’s relationship to non-Christian religions that reversed 2000 years of closed doors and teaching of contempt toward the Jewish people and Judaism and created a climate of openness, Ecumenism and Interfaith among believers throughout the world; 3) The pontificate of Pope John Paul II, who for 28 years (1978-2006) did more to reach out to the Jewish community than any other Pope in history; 4) The formation of institutes and programs whose primary function is to promote study, dialogue, and understanding between Jews and Christians, such as the Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Baltimore, Maryland. The course will consist of lecture and dialogue. A suggested, but not required book, is Rabbi Jesus by Bruce Chilton, Doubleday Image, NY, 2000. Please bring a Bible to each class.

Rev. Robert E. Albright is a retired Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He served as the Catholic Campus Minister at Towson University for the 26 years before his retirement in July 2006. Through teaching a scholarly approach to the Bible over the past 50 years, Father Bob has explored greater interfaith issues at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies of Baltimore. He has studied twice in Israel at the International Center for Holocaust Studies and has been to Israel over 18 times leading study tours and retreats and doing private research in Biblical sites and studying the Palestinian/Israeli situation. Father Bob is engaged in numerous Catholic/Jewish endeavors including a funded program to educate Jewish and Catholic high school students in each other’s tradition.

Ellen O’Brien holds a B.A. from St. Catherine’s University in St. Paul, Minnesota, an M.L.A. from the Johns Hopkins University, a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, and an M.A. from St. Mary’s University and Seminary, Ecumenical Institute. She practiced law for thirty years while also continuing her theological studies, primarily in the area of the Hebrew Bible. She has taught “Genesis, Creation, and the Snake” and “The Devil is in the Details” at Osher.

THE BOOK OF JOB

Ellen O’Brien

Session I
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 8) | Fee: $65

The Book of Job is a strange book to be included in the Bible. We don’t know who wrote it. We don’t know when it was written. Or if Job is a Jew. It lacks historical context. God makes no covenant. So why is it included? Because it is a story on the universal issue of the suffering of the innocent. As young children, we learn too quickly that life is not fair. As we mature, we learn that even the innocent suffer. For centuries people have looked to the Book of Job for answers. We are told that Job is “blameless and upright”. He is wealthy. He is the “greatest of all the people of the east.” Yet, he is caught in a wager between God and Satan. He loses all ten children, his house, and all his possessions. Even his wife tells him to die! Let’s find out what is going on.

Ellen O’Brien holds a B.A. from St. Catherine’s University in St. Paul, Minnesota, an M.L.A. from the Johns Hopkins University, a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, and an M.A. from St. Mary’s University and Seminary, Ecumenical Institute. She practiced law for thirty years while also continuing her theological studies, primarily in the area of the Hebrew Bible. She has taught “Genesis, Creation, and the Snake” and “The Devil is in the Details” at Osher.
Jean Jaurès (1859 – 1914) was a French politician, historian, philosopher and journalist who devoted the last eight years of his life to prevent what became the Great War. The greatest orator of his time, Jaurès was an eloquent advocate for democracy, justice and peace. He was the most influential spokesman for the cause of Alfred Dreyfus (even more than Emile Zola), and was responsible for the unification of the French Socialist Party in 1905. Jaurès was assassinated by a French nationalist on the eve of WWI, on July 31, 1914. He is buried in the Panthéon in Paris among the immortals of the French Republic. This course will trace the life of Jean Jaurès in the pivotal period prior to World War I. You will look at homosexuality in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, drawing contrasts between conceptions of sexuality in antiquity and in modern times. The roles of LGBT people in non-Western cultures—with emphasis on India, pre-Contact America, and pre-modern Japan—are explored. In Part II, we examine homosexuality in the context of the First World War; and compare those Bible passages with others that appear to honor same-sex love. The course next examines homosexuality in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, drawing contrasts between conceptions of sexuality in antiquity and in modern times. The roles of LGBT people in non-Western cultures—with emphasis on India, pre-Contact America, and pre-modern Japan—are explored. 

Jean Jaurès is not well known in America, but he deserves to be. Jaurès in the pivotal period prior to World War I. You will look at homosexuality in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, drawing contrasts between conceptions of sexuality in antiquity and in modern times. The roles of LGBT people in non-Western cultures—with emphasis on India, pre-Contact America, and pre-modern Japan—are explored. In Part II, we examine homosexuality in the context of the First World War; and compare those Bible passages with others that appear to honor same-sex love. The course next examines homosexuality in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, drawing contrasts between conceptions of sexuality in antiquity and in modern times. The roles of LGBT people in non-Western cultures—with emphasis on India, pre-Contact America, and pre-modern Japan—are explored. 

Jean Jaurès is not well known in America, but he deserves to be.
/** Session I **
Wednesday, 11 a.m. (begins March 7)
Fee: $65
Although the white working class burst into America’s consciousness during the 2016 presidential election, working people have been an important segment of the population since the nation’s founding in 1776. After exploring the history of the American working class and the different definitions of who is in the working class and who isn’t, we will address some important but contentious questions: Why are they so angry? Do they have legitimate concerns or are they just racist and sexist? Why was candidate Donald Trump, a billionnaire, able to appeal to working people? Will President Trump’s policies help or hurt the white working class? Although everyone has opinions about the answers to these questions, I will show how social scientists try to answer some of these questions. Each class will consist of 40 - 50 minutes of lecture, with plenty of time left for discussion. Suggested readings: Arlie Russell Hochschild, Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right, New Press, 2016; J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right, New Press, 2016; J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and

/** Session II **
Wednesday, 1 p.m. (begins April 11)
Fee: $65
Migration to Europe, and specifically the European Union, is happening at an unprecedented rate. Migrants from around the world are, in many cases, risking their lives to enter a country that they have never seen. This course will focus on answering the following questions: Who are these migrants? Why are migrants risking their lives to go to Europe? How are they entering Europe? What awaits the migrants once they arrive? How is Europe managing this influx of migrants? Through answering these questions, we will gain an understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and political impact of the migration crisis in Europe. Julie Knight, Ph.D., is the Director of Research in the Division of Innovation and Applied Research at Towson University. Dr. Knight received her Ph.D., focusing on the impact of EU migrants on the British labor market, from Cardiff University in Wales. Her research interests include migration, ethnic studies, regional economic development, and entrepreneurship.

/** Session III **
Monday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 5)
Fee: $65
Humans have been journeying to space for nearly six decades. We have learned much about how the human body fares in zero gravity – astronauts grow about two inches while in space, their sense of taste degrades, their eyesight worsens, and most experience some degree of space sickness. The recent year-long stay of astronaut Scott Kelly aboard the International Space Station provided valuable insight into the challenges of long-term space flight. Astronauts on trips to Mars will be in space for more than two years and will have to battle additional dangers, including being prepared to deal with sickness, injury or even death while millions of miles from Earth. We explore the early NASA and Soviet space programs, the challenges and tragedies, and examine once-secret Soviet space disasters that have since come to light. We will take a video tour of the International Space Station led by several astronauts to see day-to-day life in space.

Jim O’Leary is senior scientist at the Maryland Science Center (MSC) and for 12 years co-hosted WYPR’s Skywatch program. He develops Earth and space science programs for MSC and conducts educator workshops both locally and nationally. He has produced several IMAX films and dozens of Planetarium programs. He lectures on astronomy and Earth science topics, appears on radio and television as an astronomy expert, and has undertaken programs with NASA and the National Science Foundation.

/** Session IV **
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins April 11)
Fee: $65
Although butterfly watching cannot yet compete with bird watching as an outdoor activity, it is becoming increasingly popular. Maryland has over 150 species of butterflies than can be seen between late February and early November, yet few of us know more than the monarch and the tiger swallowtail. It’s time to learn more about our native butterflies: what they are, where, when and how to see them, how we can encourage them to come into our gardens, and why we can encourage them to come into our gardens, and why our state butterfly has become reduced to only 11 sites in 7 counties. This course will cover the 60 most common butterflies in the Baltimore area (with gorgeous photos) but will also include recommendations for field guides, field trips, websites, butterfly-specific binoculars, organizations that serve the ever expanding butterfly-watching population, local and national butterfly “hot spots” – in other words, everything you need to know to be a successful butterflywatcher in Maryland.

Robin Tress worked for 45 years in information technology before retiring from the telecommunications department of M&T Bank in 2012. She has a B.A. in German from Barnard College and an M.S. in computer science from the Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves as a garden keeper at Irvine Nature Center and as a docent at the Evergreen Museum. She is a member of the Baltimore and Howard County bird clubs and edited the Baltimore club’s electronic newsletter for four years. She began butterfly watching as a supplement to bird watching and now considers herself a true devotee of Maryland’s lepidoptera.