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Worldwide Release of *Medicine and Morals* *New Course Provides Jewish Guidance for Medical Decision Making*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September, 2010 – *Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions*

This October, the Chabad Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will launch its fall course, *Medicine and Morals: Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions*. *Medicine and Morals* is a case-study-based exploration of Jewish medical ethics and a fascinating look at Judaism's approach to 21st century medical dilemmas.

Rabbi Shmuly Altein of Chabad-Lubavitch will conduct the six course sessions at the Chabad Torah Centre for six Tuesdays evenings or Wednesday mornings, starting the week of October 24.

The six lessons will include Choosing Life: The Obligation to Seek Healing; Flesh of My Flesh: Organ Transplants in Jewish Law; Rolling the Dice: Risky and Experimental Treatments; New Beginnings: The Ethics of Reproductive Technologies; With You In Mind: Ethical Treatment of the Mentally Disabled; Secret Code: Genetics and the Ethics of Patient Confidentiality.

"As medicine advances and life expectancy increases, almost all of us will encounter an ethical dilemma in dealing with our own health or that of a loved one," said Rabbi Zalman Abraham of the JLI's Brooklyn headquarters. "But Jewish law creatively draws analogies with ancient paradigms to provide guidance through the maze of medical decision-making."

The course will examine contemporary case studies and compare secular and Jewish approaches as a means of developing understanding, he added.

"*Medicine and Morals* is more intriguing than any fictional TV show," promises local JLI instructor, Rabbi Shmuly Altein. "It will prepare students for choices that they or their loved ones may be called upon to make, and it's also a fascinating exposure to little-discussed aspects of Judaism."



JLI brings authentic, relevant Jewish learning to adults seeking intellectual and spiritual growth.



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Like all JLI programs, *Medicine and Morals* is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call **(204) 414-5624** or visit **www.ChabadWinnipeg.org/JLI** for registration and other course-related information. The course will be available for CME and CLE credit (students who are pursuing continuing education credit may have to fulfill additional requirements). JLI courses are presented in Winnipeg in conjunction with Chabad-Lubavitch.



Medicine and Morals local **Advisory Board** includes the following doctors:

- **Dr. Mitchell Cosman**, MD, Sports Medicine Physician
- **Dr. Gerald Y. Minuk**, MD, FRCPC, Professor of Medicine & Pharmacology, Head, Section of Hepatology
- **Dr. Bonnie P. Cham**, MD, FRCPC, Associate Professor of Medicine, Hematologist, Former Chair of the CMA's Ethics Committee
- **Dr. Mathew Lazar**, MD, FRCPC, FAAP, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Emergency Medical Supervisor
- **Dr. Edward A. Lyons**, MD, FRCPC, FACR, Professor of Radiology, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Anatomy
- **Dr. Joel B. Zivot**, MD, FRCPC, Medical Director, Cardio-thoracic Intensive Care Unit



JLI is the first international educational institution to present traditional Judaism in a professional, innovative, academically challenging yet accessible format. The JLI was created to address the needs of Jews for in-depth Jewish knowledge. Authorities on each subject have organized the curriculum and teaching materials for each course.

“At the heart of Jewish culture there has always been Jewish learning, an engaged and vibrant meeting of minds,” explains Rabbi Shmuly Altein, the local JLI instructor. “We’re excited to be able to bring this open and interactive learning environment to our community.”



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The program begins with ***Medicine and Morals*** in October, continues with ***Toward a Meaningful Life*** in February and will conclude with ***Shabbat; An Oasis in Time*** in May. This sequence is designed to provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of Jewish thought, heritage, and tradition, and enables students to achieve basic Jewish literacy as well as an understanding of cardinal Jewish beliefs and observances.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 300 U.S. cities and in numerous foreign locations, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Israel, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela. More than 180,000 people have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.



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