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## New Course Explores Inspirational Avenues to Emerge from Times of Uncertainty

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 - *Timeless Tales for Inspired Living*

This February, the Chabad Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will launch its winter course, **Portraits in Leadership: Timeless Tales for Inspired Living**. *Portraits in Leadership* is a study of the inspiring life story of six figures whose courage and determination helped Judaism weather its darkest hours. In the face of the first-century Roman assault on Jerusalem, the fundamental institutions of the Jewish people were utterly destroyed. But with wisdom and verve, these leaders took the radical steps that managed to preserve the essence of Judaism to this very day.

"This course is one part history, one part biography—all parts uplifting inspiration," says Rabbi Lazer Gurkow, course author." It is about decisions made two thousand years ago that continue to shape the contours of contemporary Jewish life."

"Students are constantly looking for tools to deal with day-to-day challenges," says local JLI instructor and director, Rabbi Shmuly Altein. "What better way to find guidance than from the wise example of others who encountered hardships and used them as the impetus for growth and change."

Lessons will examine a range of classic Jewish sources, drawing extensively from the stories of the Talmud and modern commentaries that point out their personal significance to our lives.

Rabbi Shmuly Altein of the *Lubavitch Centre* will be teaching this course at the **Chabad Torah Centre** for six Tuesdays, starting February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Potential students are welcome to call (204) 414-5624 or visit [www.ChabadWinnipeg.org/JLI](http://www.ChabadWinnipeg.org/JLI) for more information.

*Portraits in Leadership*, like all JLI's courses, is designed for people at all levels of Jewish knowledge. Participants without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning can attend and enjoy this course. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not to be a member of any particular synagogue or temple.

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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.



**Portraits in Leadership: Timeless Tales for Inspired Living**

Discover inner courage, determination, and resilience in the life stories of legendary Talmudic figures. One part biography, one part history, all parts inspiration!



“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.”

The program began with **SoulQuest** in November, continues with **Portraits in Leadership** in February and concludes with **Beyond Never Again** in April. 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.

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI’s classes and programs are offered at over 300 locations in more than 250 cities nationwide and internationally (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela). Over 100,000 people have attended JLI classes since its founding in 1998. Every course offered by JLI is taught concurrently in all locations. This unique feature has helped create a truly global learning community.

JLI courses are presented in Winnipeg, MB under the auspices of **Lubavitch Centre**.

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