



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Why Do Jews Say *Mazel Tov* and *L'Chaim*?

Winnipeg, MB – The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present *The Jewish Course of Why*, the institute's new six-session winter 2016 course that will begin February 9, 2016.

Rabbi Shmuly Altein of Chabad-Lubavitch will conduct the six course sessions at 7:30 - 9:00 pm on Tuesday evenings at the Jewish Learning Centre.

"No religion is known for its rational basis and its welcoming of questions and intellectual debate quite like Judaism" explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's headquarters in Brooklyn. "In preparing for the course, we turned to over 30,000 people who each submitted their biggest questions about Judaism. We then selected the most popular among them and addressed each one with resonant insights from the greatest minds in Jewish history."

The Jewish Course of Why spans a diverse range of topics, from fun, light, and off-the-beaten-track questions, to more complex and controversial issues. Some of the course's 50 questions include: Why are there so many Jews in Hollywood? Why do Jews eat *gefilte fish* and *cholent* and wish each other *mazel tov* and *l'chaim*? Why does the Bible sanction slavery and animal sacrifices? What is the cause of antisemitism? What does Judaism say about Christianity and about the role of women in Jewish life? In addition to the above, the course offers insight into mysterious Jewish practices, strange biblical narratives, and enigmas of Jewish identity.

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



"We're excited to be offering this fun and dynamic learning experience here in Winnipeg," said Rabbi Shmuly Altein, the local JLI instructor. "*The Jewish Course of Why* gives our participants the opportunity to expand their Jewish knowledge and intellectualize their Judaism by exploring rational insights into the most intriguing questions that Jews have today."

Like all previous JLI programs, *The Jewish Course of Why* 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 204-339-8737 or visit ChabadWinnipeg.org for registration and other course-related information.



Motivated by a profound love for every Jew and spurred by a boundless optimism, Chabad-Lubavitch touches and enriches the lives of young and old, professionals and laypeople, the affiliated and the non-affiliated, immigrants and long-time citizens, regardless of background, affiliation, or level of commitment.

The Jewish Learning Institute is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch and a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg. As the preeminent provider of adult Jewish learning in Winnipeg, JLI's mission is to make the wisdom of Jewish learning accessible to everyone. "The Jewish Learning Institute allows you to explore basic Jewish ideas, to share critical analysis and interactive discussion with exciting instructors and classmates," said Mr. David Chochinov, chairman of the local JLI advisory board.

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