

Guests from History

Coming to LPS Shabbat dinners this winter



Beruria

Friday, Jan. 13th
Mincha/ Ma'ariv 4:25
Dinner 5:10

Beruria lived in the second century of the Common Era and is frequently quoted in the Talmud, where she holds her own with the men. She is such a fiery student she is known to learn up to 300 different laws from 300 different teachers, all on the same day. This evening she will share with us some reflections on being a woman in the Talmud, how she has carried on after the persecution of her parents by the Romans, and how a family tragedy has made her stronger.



Nachmanides

Friday, Feb. 3rd
Mincha/ Ma'ariv 4:50
Dinner 5:30

Nachmanides (he prefers to be called by his Hebrew initials Ramban) was born in Girona, Spain, in 1194. He will explain to us this evening why he has undertaken to write a commentary on the Torah and does not consider the recently authored commentaries of Rashi and the Ibn Ezra to be adequate. He will also reflect on the disputations with Pablo Christiani in 1263 which he was forced to undertake by King James I of Aragon. He will recap his main arguments, share his view on how the disputation went, and fill us in on the king's reaction. He later travelled to the land of Israel, and he will give us an update of what he found the holy land to be like.



Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai

Friday, February 24th
Mincha/ Ma'ariv 5:20
Dinner 6PM

Rabbi Yochanan ben Zachai, often quoted in the Talmud, is only able to speak about his escape from recently destroyed Jerusalem now that his new academy in Yavneh has been securely established. He will explain how and why he had his students smuggle him out of Jerusalem in a coffin to avoid detection by the Romans. He will also explain why he believes his academy in Yavneh with its emphasis on study and prayer will allow the Jewish people to continue indefinitely even after the destruction.