Goals of Adult Jewish Education

Adult Jewish Education will...

1. Be open to all members of the community.
2. Be financially accessible.
3. Be accessible for adults with different learning needs.
4. Create welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning spaces.
5. Represent and celebrate our diverse Jewish community
6. Encourage participants try out and experience classes in different settings.
7. Introduce and connect people to a variety of Jewish practices.
8. Give Jews the tools and skills to live Jewish lives.
9. Strengthen Jewish identity and Jewish community.
10. Celebrate & showcase Austin’s collection of quality and diverse Jewish Educators.

Categories of Adult Jewish Education Classes

1. Jewish Lifecycle
2. Jewish Belief & Practice
3. Judaism in the Home
4. Miscellaneous/Special Topics
5. Prayer & Spirituality
6. Text & Torah Study
7. Israel
8. Hebrew
9. Arts & Culture
10. Jewish History
11. Informal/Social Gatherings
JEWISH LIFECYCLE

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Program

Maybe you grew up Jewish but didn’t have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as a teen, or maybe you had one but want to renew your commitment to the Jewish faith. Maybe you converted to Judaism several years ago and feel like taking the next step in navigating your Jewish identity. Whatever the reason, we hope that you join fellow Temple Beth Shalom members in this exciting and meaningful opportunity! Program begins January 10, 2021.

JEWISH BELIEF & PRACTICE

Ask the Rabbis

Join us for a lively conversation about what’s in your heart and on your mind. Each meetup stands alone – anyone is welcome to attend at any time. No prior registration needed.

Led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Mondays | 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

Living a Jewish Life: Bonding & Belonging

New Course! Designed as a follow-up to “Living Judaism,” this year-long course explores questions around living a Jewish life inside our homes and outside in our community. We will explore traditions and ways of thinking about obligations of tzedakah and Jewish Peoplehood while we look at the diversity of Jewish life around the world. Finally, we will delve deeply into how to “exercise the Jewish soul,” through learning, personal prayer and our relationship with the earth and all life. Hough the class builds on lessons from Living Judaism, all are welcome to deepen their knowledge of Jewish culture, tradition and wisdom throughout the ages, as well as to join with a community of people who love to learn and discuss.

Instructor Cathy Schechter | Tuesdays | 7:30 – 8:30 PM | January 19 - April 20
$75/person | $100/couple | Register at theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/

Living a Jewish Life

This introductory course is intended to convey information about the major facets of Judaism: holidays, lifecycle occasions, Israel, etc. Students in this class typically come from a variety of backgrounds such as born-Jews, Interfaith couples, non-Jewish students, and adults simply curious about Judaism.

Instructors Rabbi Folberg and Rabbi Levy | Tuesdays | 7 – 9 PM
$100 Non-member/Semester | Register at clergyoffice@bethisrael.org
**Living Judaism: A Guide to Jewish Awareness and Practice**

Join Rabbi Blumofe for this dynamic class which will introduce or refresh many areas of Judaism and Jewish life including history, holidays, lifecycle events, philosophy, theology, and Israel. This class is for anyone who wishes to learn more about Judaism, including those who are Jewish and those who are not.

**Instructor Rabbi Blumofe | Wednesdays | 6:30 - 8 PM | January 13 – May 12 | $150 ($200/couple) + cost of texts | For information or to register, contact Jane Weiss at jane.weiss@caa-austin.org**

**Judaism in the Home**

*Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | The Shabbat Table: Friday Night Rituals Explained*

In this class, we will learn some of the most time-honored Shabbat traditions and rituals. Where do they come from? Why do we do them? What do they mean? By exploring the answers to these questions, and more, we will be able to connect more fully and appreciate more deeply the blessing of Shabbat at our own Friday night tables. Zoom link will be sent to you the Friday before this module begins.

**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Mondays | 7 PM – 9 PM | May 3, 2021 – May 24, 2021 | $72**

**Miscellaneous/Special Topics**

*Zoom Town Study Group*

Meets Monthly. New group members welcomed anytime. Come and join a thriving monthly discussion with the group previously known as the “Downtown Study Group.” Participants dive into a variety of topics including Sources of the Bible, Biblical Midrash, and Lives of the Chasidic Masters. At present, we are discussing a series of Talmud Tales from the book, *A Bride for One Night*, by Ruth Calderon (JPS). This will be a literary exploration of human relationships and intimacy in the Talmud. We will have an open opportunity to reflect and challenge the words of the text and beyond.

**Instructor Dr. Harvey Raben | Thursdays | 12PM – 1PM | January 21, February 18, March 18, April 29, May 20 | Suggested Donation | Text: *A Bride for One Night*, by Ruth Calderon (JPS)**
**PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY**

*Mindful Movement*

Begin your week with Shalom through a meditative, body-mind awareness practice that lowers stress and increases energy. We will explore the following questions: How can I move in a way that feels easier? What can allow me to experience the flow of life in a more positive way? What movement cues evoke body-positive feelings? Through this practice, we can learn to recall and re-experience such movements in our body so they become familiar and foster greater peace.

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**Instructor Bobbie Nehman | Thursdays | 4PM – 5PM | January 28 – April 15 | $36**

Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/)

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**TEXT & TORAH STUDY**

*Beit Midrash*

Perhaps it’s time to explore the wide and deep tradition of Jewish learning. Our sages have provided us with paths to deeper understanding of the Jewish tradition. Each Sunday morning, we wade into texts from Mishnah, Tanakh, and Talmud. Sometimes deep and probing, other times light and humorous, this class explores our current thinking as it relates to ancient texts. An openness to explore Jewish tradition is the only requirement. All levels of learning are welcomed. Each class stands alone, so anyone can join at any time!

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**Instructor Dr. Harvey Raben and class guides | Sundays | 11 AM – 12:20 PM**

January 24 – April 25 | Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education)

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**Chai Mitzvah | The Ten Commandments**

Led by Shereen Ben-Moshe and Scott Berman | Third Thursday of each month | Contact [bethelaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:bethelaustin@yahoo.com)

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**Friday Morning Learning**

Following Shacharit minyan, please join us in studying Midrashim from the portion of the week! Texts easily found on the Sefaria website.

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**Facilitator Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Fridays | 8:35AM – 9AM**
Jewish Guidance on Contemporary Ethical Issues

Sometimes, when we hear the phrase "Jewish law," we tend to think first of "ritual matters" like whether something is "Kosher for Passover," or whether one is supposed to stand or sit for a particular prayer. But Jewish law (halakhah, literally, "the path") addresses all kinds of questions that fall outside of what contemporary Americans would consider "religious matters,"

In this new class, we will be delving into Responsa texts to learn more about how these texts can help us to wrestle with thorny ethical issues in modern life.

Instructor Rabbi Steven Folberg | Thursdays | 12PM – 1PM | February 25 – April 1
Register at bethisrael.org/more-adult-learning

Mishne Torah k’Seder Friday Morning

Come and join Rabbi Dan for an in-depth exploration of the Rambam's Mishne Torah. This class will go through the Rambam's classic work on halakha (Jewish law), in a way which both engages and transforms the reader on a spiritual and intellectual level. Why did the Rambam write the Mishne Torah? What was he trying to achieve? How does the Rambam's interpretation of Jewish law, theology, history and culture differ from his rabbinic contemporaries who also wrote comprehensive Jewish legal works? What were some of the great disputes this work sparked, and why? You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity to learn what the Mishne Torah is all about.

Fridays | 8:15 AM | Attend online with video and audio or join through phone call alone. Visit tiferetaustin.org for more information on how to join these exciting classes

Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Wonder of Wonders, Miracle of Miracles

What is a miracle? To you? To the Torah? Does the meaning of miracles change through the Hebrew Bible and into Rabbinic Literature? This non-rational side of Jewish faith pushes our boundaries and expectations of the world and our lives as human beings. How do these stories challenge our rational attachments to Judaism? How do these stories challenge our rational attachments to science and secular, academic thought? Alternatively, what do these stories have to offer the spiritual seekers in our midst? Join Rabbi Rebecca Reice as we investigate these questions and many more, while we study miracles in the Hebrew Bible and early Rabbinic Literature together. Zoom link will be sent to you the Friday before this module begins.

Led by Rabbi Rebecca Reice | Mondays | 7 PM – 9 PM | April 5, 2021 – April 26, 2021 | $72
**Shabbat Limud**

Beginning at 8:30am, we begin Shabbat morning with a lively Torah study, verse by verse, with Rashi commentary and lots of discussion. If you want to dive into a dynamic and meaningful conversation about Torah with a group of engaged learners, this experience is for you! All are welcome. No prior registration needed, visit our Service Streaming page and click button to join “Shabbat Limud”.

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**Facilitator Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Saturday | 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

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**Take Your Tanakh Tuesday Night**

The Book of Ezekiel is one of the most mysterious but essential books of the Tanakh. Who was Ezekiel? When was he prophesying? Were his prophecies meant for his time or the distant future? In this Take Your Tanakh series, we will take an in-depth look at the life, times and ageless message of the Prophet Ezekiel in a way which will make his contribution to Jewish texts, history and destiny truly come to life! A priest stuck in exile, dreaming of the perfect Temple in a perfect homeland - a man pinning for spiritual life, but only experiencing physical privation - what is his message really all about? God asks Ezekiel to do many strange things - things even contrary to Jewish law! Were they literally true, or were they merely metaphorical? Come and join the CTI Tuesday evening Take Your Tanakh class, as together, we learn about the Prophet Ezekiel!

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**Tuesdays | 7 PM | Attend online with video and audio or join through phone call alone. Visit tiferetaustin.org for more information on how to join these exciting classes**

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**Take your Tanakh Wednesdays Morning**

In this class, we will examine the life, times and trials of the Prophet Samuel, the last Judge of Israel. The story of Samuel is the story of Jewish leadership, its kings, wars and promises. I Samuel introduces us to a large swath of Jewish history - it plunges us into the depths of the drama between Saul and David, and causes us to questions of military ethics, family loyalty, religious boundaries, and Divine providence. The Prophet Samuel may be most well-known for anointing David, but his legacy and story are essential for every Jew to learn, because with I Samuel, the story of the Jewish people's redemption begins!

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**Wednesdays | 8:15 AM | Attend online with video and audio or join through phone call alone. Visit tiferetaustin.org for more information on how to join these exciting classes**
**Talmud on Tuesdays**

We will study from the tractate, Baba Metzia (a discussion of possession, ownership, and what constitutes evidence) – all backgrounds are welcome! Though classes build upon one another, each can stand alone. So anyone is welcome to attend at any time. No prior registration needed.

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**Led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Tuesdays | 12 PM – 1PM**

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**Talmud with Tzahi**

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**Led by Hazzan Yitzhak Ben-Moshe | Second Tuesdays of the Month | 7:30 PM | Contact bethelaustin@yahoo.com**

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**Torah Study**

Every Saturday morning at 9am via Zoom. Free for members and non-members.

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**Saturday Mornings | 9 AM | Contact Marissa Wright at marissa.wright@bethshalomaustin.org.**

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**Torah Study**

Our highly interactive and illuminating Torah Study is still interactive! Our Zoom connection allows you to participate from the comfort of your own home.

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**Led by Rabbi Folberg and Rabbi Levy | Saturdays | 9:15 AM**

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**Torah Study with Rabbi Kerry Baker**

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**Thursdays | 12:15 PM | Register at mrkimmosley@gmail.com**
**Torah Study**

Torah Study is led by David Cohen and Carole Wood. Details for each meeting appear in the Voice email newsletter, and an email will be sent closer to the date with an invitation to join the online meeting.

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**Second Saturdays in August, October, December, February, April & June | 10:30 AM**
**To be added to or removed from our Torah Study invitation list, please email administrator@shir-ami.com**

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**Torah Trope**

Students will learn to chant Torah in a supportive and encouraging environment. Long-time Torah tutor, Risa Ferdman, will guide students to unlocking the code to the melodies of our most sacred text. The spring class will build upon the lessons from the fall class. New and continuing students are both welcomed.

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**Instructor Risa Ferdman | Sundays | 4PM – 5PM | January 24 – April 25 | $36 + Cost of textbook | Register at theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education**

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**ISRAEL**

**Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | The Root of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Between World Wars**

Much of what shapes the current conflict between Israelis and Palestinians can be traced to the time period between World Wars I and II. This Zoom seminar will explore not only the basic parameters of the conflict but also how little the arguments on both sides have changed. We will also examine how ghosts of the British Mandate still affect events and the ongoing clash between maximalists and those who seek accommodation on both sides. Zoom link will be sent to you the Friday before this module begins.

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**Led by Rabbi Alan Freedman | Mondays | 7 PM – 9 PM | March 1, 2021 – March 22, 2021 | $72**
Virtual Experience of Israel

New course! “Zoom” to Israel on a rich journey exploring ancient sites, stories, archeology, holidays, and different aspects of Israeli life and culture. Class will be taught in English, however, you will likely learn important Israeli phrases and slang!

Instructor Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Sundays | 5PM – 6PM | January 24 – April 25 | $96 | Register at theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/

HEBREW

Hebrew Crash Course – Year Two | Reading Siddur (Continued)

Students will continue to draw from the Shabbat and Festival prayerbooks to gain facility with the Hebrew language. Students will strengthen their ability to read prayers, gain more vocabulary, and begin learning Hebrew grammar. New students are welcome; however, some facility with basic Hebrew reading is a prerequisite.

Instructor Davida Charney & Cynthia Winer | Sundays | 11AM – 12:20PM | January 24 – April 25 | Register at theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/

Hebrew Through Torah

If you have some basic knowledge of Hebrew, join us as we continue our informal, organic approach to its grammar and vocabulary. Using verses from the weekly Parshah and snippets of the siddur as study texts, we'll explore how words that look and sound very different are actually related. We'll build upon what you already know about Hebrew, whether you realize it or not! Expect the instructor to interject fun and surprising facts about language in general and about Hebrew’s interconnections with Arabic, Yiddish, English, Spanish, and more.

Instructor Gail Tosto | Wednesdays | 1PM – 2PM | January 20 – May 5 | Register at theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education

Modern Hebrew – Level Bet | Early Intermediate

*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level.
Class will continue to expand Hebrew literacy and conversation skills in a fun, dynamic way. Contemporary media as well as Israeli culture and slang will also be incorporated into the
learning experience. Each class session will be followed by a custom newsletter summarizing the material covered, with links to resources, and suggested practice tasks.

**Modern Hebrew - Level Dalet | Advanced/Emerging Fluency**

*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level.* Students will continue to expand fluency through conversation. Each class will focus on a different topic and will be focused primarily on conversing in Hebrew around specific topics. Contemporary media, as well as Israeli poetry and literature, will be integrated. Each class session will be followed by a custom newsletter summarizing the material covered, with links to resources, and suggested practice tasks.

**Instructor Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Wednesdays| 4:30PM – 6PM**
**January 27 – April 28 | $144 + Cost of text |**

**Modern Hebrew - Level Gimel | Advanced Intermediate**

*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level.* Students will continue to deepen Hebrew fluency through expanding skills in reading, writing, and conversation. Contemporary Israeli poetry, literature, and media will also be incorporated into the learning experience. Each class session will be followed by a custom newsletter summarizing the material covered, with links to resources, and suggested practice tasks.

**Instructor Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Thursdays| 10:30AM – 11:30AM**
**January 28 – April 29 | $96 + Cost of text |**

**Modern Hebrew Poetry**

New Course! The how, what, and why of reading Hebrew Poetry, from Biblical to modern times, revealed by practice with different forms, modes, and methods. This course will be conducted in English, with many readings in Hebrew and English facing-page translation and transliteration. Materials for the course and syllabus will be posted by instructor on a specialty class newsletter. Maximum number of participants per class: 8.

**Instructor Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Fridays | 12PM – 1PM | January 29 – April 16 | $72 | Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/)**
**Parsha Reading in Hebrew**

In this class we will study brief passages from weekly Torah portions (parashot) in the original language and from that derive an improved knowledge and understanding of Biblical Hebrew. No prior study of Hebrew grammar is needed; however, participants should be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet and able to read aloud from a printed Chumash, aka Pentateuch or Torah. The latter, in whatever edition you have available, is the only required text.

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**Instructor** Mark Long | **Sundays** | 9:30AM – 10:50AM
January 24 – April 18 | Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/)

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**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Beit Café**

New students are welcomed to join in January!  Calling all writers and creative spirits!  This class brings together veteran and emerging writers and poets using their talents to explore Jewish themes. The group will meet every other week to discuss and share their work in a safe and supportive space. At the end of the semester, the class will have the option of hosting an open mic event to share their work with the community.

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**Guides/Hosts** Zoe Miller & Stacey Glazer | **Sundays** | 7 PM – 8:30 PM
January 24, February 7, 21, March 7, 21, April 11, 25 | Open Mic Night April 25
Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/)

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**Book Club**

Last Tuesday afternoon and last Wednesday evening of each month | Email shalom@bethshalomaustin.org for current information.

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**CAA Book Club**


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**Led by** Douglas A. Burton | **Thursdays** | 7 PM – 8:30 PM
January 14, February 11, March 11, April 29
Register at [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education/)
Happy Bookers Book Club

Happy Bookers Zooms again! Watch for an email with details about how to join on Zoom. You can also join the discussion on the Happy Bookers Facebook page that will be posted after the meeting. Every upcoming book is listed in our website calendar here: https://shirami.net/events/

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**Fourth Saturday of the month | 10:30 AM**
For more information, visit our Facebook group. To be added to or removed from our Book Club Zoom invitation list, please email congregation@shir-ami.com

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**Cooking in Community | Exploring Jewish Food and Culture**
A collaborative, quarterly series among Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Beth Israel.

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Vanessa Weisbrod | May 4 | 7PM – 8:30PM | Gluten-free Jewish Classics

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**JEWISH HISTORY**

**INFORMAL/SOCIAL GATHERINGS**