

# COMMUNITY WIDE ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION



## 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'nei Mitzvah*

We are now recruiting for the next cohort of CAA Adult B'nai Mitzvah learners. Online classes will begin in October 2021 and students will be called to Torah in Spring 2023. To be added to the group or to ask any questions, contact [matthew.levitt@park.edu](mailto:matthew.levitt@park.edu)

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**Led by Matthew Levitt | Congregation Agudas Achim | Sunday Mornings, weekly  
beginning October 3 | 9:30AM | \$360 for 18 months of study | Visit  
[theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to learn more**

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# JEWISH BELIEF & PRACTICE

## *Building a Palace in Time: The Many Meanings of Shabbat*

Are you interested in learning more about the laws, customs, rituals and philosophy of Shabbat? Would you like to enhance your observance of Shabbat, and make it a central feature of your life? If so, please join Rabbi Dan for, "Building a Palace in Time: The Many Meanings of Shabbat." In this class, we will not only explore how to keep Shabbat, but why we do so in the first place. Why is Shabbat so precious and unique to the Jewish people? Why did God make the observance of Shabbat so essential for a spiritual relationship with Him? How does Shabbat and its observance help us better understand ourselves as individuals and as a community? How do all of the laws and observances of Shabbat help us better understand and experience what spiritual freedom is really all about? "Building a Palace in Time: The Many Meanings of Shabbat" will operate like a book club. With each new unit, a different book will be assigned, and we will work through each book according to scheduled readings and thought prompts. Individual members are responsible for obtaining the assigned books, all of which can be easily found on Amazon.com. Our second book will be Peninei Halakha, by Rabbi Eliezer Melamed. In this book, we will delve into the laws of Shabbat, their purpose, and their eternal import on Jewish life and on the Jewish people, and how the gift of Shabbat shapes our lives. This class is free of charge. No prior background is required, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Congregation Tiferet Israel | Sundays | 7PM | Email  
[bshapiro590@gmail.com](mailto:bshapiro590@gmail.com) to Register.**

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## ***From Tattoos to the Taboo: Answering (some of) Judaism's Big Questions***

Join Rabbi Kelly Levy for her next "From" series as she delves into some of Judaism's big questions. Topics may include: the Jewish belief in life after death, what do we really say about tattoos, and reincarnation.

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**Led by Rabbi Kelly Levy | Congregation Beth Israel | Wednesdays |  
October 20 – November 17 | 12PM | \$75 Non-Member Fee |  
Registration is required | Email [clergyoffice@bethisrael.org](mailto:clergyoffice@bethisrael.org) to Register**

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## ***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, folks who are interested in converting to Judaism and some are simply curious and would like to learn more about Judaism.

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**Led by Rabbi Steve Folberg and Rabbi Kelly Levy | Congregation Beth Israel |  
Tuesdays Starting Early October | 7PM | \$100 Non-member/Semester |  
Registration is required | Email [clergyoffice@bethisrael.org](mailto:clergyoffice@bethisrael.org) to Register**

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## ***Living Judaism***

Join Rabbi Neil 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 Jews and non-Jews. Class is held 3-4 times per month and will continue through May and is a course for anyone interested in learning more about Judaism — theological, practical, historical, liturgical, etc. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this class — those looking to choose Judaism, those who would like a refresher, interfaith, and all who are curious.

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**Led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Congregation Agudas Achim | Wednesdays |  
October 6 – May 4 | 6:30PM | \$180 (\$240/Couple) + Cost of texts |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 6: Preparing for Pesach: Jewish Teachings on Slavery and Freedom***

We will explore some of the Biblical and Rabbinic bases of the Passover story and seder, as we delve into the complex topics of slavery and freedom. Our course will culminate with a co-created model seder, providing fresh thoughts and ritual ideas to bring to your own seders.

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**Led by Dana Baruch | Mondays | March 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens February 7 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 4: "The Reward Awaits in the World to Come": The Practices of Visiting the Sick, Burying the Dead, and Comforting the Mourner***

This class will be taught by Hazzan Yitzhak Ben-Moshe, Spiritual Leader of Congregation Beth El and Chaplain at Saint David's Medical Center and Heart Hospital of Austin. We will look at Jewish tradition as well as practical lessons from spiritual care in the healthcare setting.

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**Led by Hazzan Yitzhak Ben-Moshe | Mondays | January 10, 18, 24, 31 | 7PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens December 6 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## **JUDAISM IN THE HOME**

### ***Parenting Through a Jewish Lens***

This 6-week cohort will give participants a renewed sense of community and opportunity to reflect on how to parent with intentionality. Give yourself the gift of friendship, adult conversations, personal learning so that you can bring your best self forward when engaged in the sacred act of parenting. This curriculum, published by Hebrew College, will focus on Judaism in Our Homes with an eye towards: \*Joyful Jewish parenting \*Infusing our lives with meaning \* Finding peace in our homes \*Reconnecting and recharging \*Parenting at a time of loss \*Parenting for kindness Participants will engage with relevant and accessible Jewish texts, be empowered with parenting strategies and approaches derived from both Jewish and secular sources, participate in rich and important conversations sharing their own experiences and insights on parenting, connect with other parents and to enjoy the benefits of community. Participants are asked to commit to attending the entire 6-week series as each session builds upon itself and we are seeking to build intentional community.

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**Led by Rabbi Gail Swedroe | Congregation Agudas Achim |**  
**Thursdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11 | 12PM | \$18**  
**Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## MISCELLANEOUS/SPECIAL TOPICS

### *Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning at Lunch | All About Jews, According to Pew*

In 2013, the Pew Research Center published “A Portrait of Jewish Americans”, a landmark study that has framed the conversation around American Judaism for close to a decade. In 2021, the Pew Research Center published the second edition of this study, “Jewish Americans in 2020”, which will continue to shape the narrative of who we are and where we are going. What’s changed? What’s stayed the same? What does it mean for us? Join Alachua Nazarenko, Shalom Austin Education & Engagement Director, as we delve into these two studies and essential questions facing the Jewish future.

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**Led by Alachua Nazarenko | Wednesdays | March 9, 16, 22, 30 | 12PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens February 7 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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### *Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 3: Jewish Bioethics*

Bioethics is the study of the ethical issues emerging from advances in biology and medicine, along with moral discernment as related to medical policy and practice. As participants in a Jewish education program, it is natural for us to wonder what the rich tradition of the Torah, Talmud, and modern scholarship has to say about these ethical issues. When does life begin? When does life end? What are our responsibilities to our bodies and the bodies of others in the short time between those points? Are tattoos OK? What about organ donation? While there is no one “Jewish Answer” to these complicated questions, there are lots of Jewish texts and Jewish values and, of course, Jewish opinions.

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**Led by Rabbi Allison Poirier | Mondays | December 6, 13, 20, 27 | 7PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens November 1 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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### *Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 2: Jewish Sociology and Jewish America Today*

Ever had a question about Jews and intermarriage? Race? Engagement? Identity? Just as we study Jewish texts, we can also analyze Jewish people, their trends, and our collective past and present. Together we’ll explore these topics, the questions they bring about, and discuss what they mean in our own lives and communities.

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**Led by Rabbi Will Hall | Mondays | November 1, 8, 15, 29 | 7PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens October 4 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## ***Mindful Movement***

Enhance your week with Shalom through meditative, body-mind awareness movement. This approach lowers stress and increases energy. We will explore the following questions: How can I move in a way that feels easier and freer? What can allow me to experience the flow of life in a more positive way? We learn to recall and re-experience helpful ways to move in our daily life that foster greater peace. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your curiosity.

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**Led by Bobbie Nehman | Congregation Agudas Achim |  
Thursdays, October 7 – December 16 | 4PM | \$36  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](https://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## **PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY**

### ***Mood & Mindfulness***

Do you feel distracted? Hurried? Preoccupied? This personal development workshop will teach mindfulness techniques that can help participants to be more present and aware in daily life. Mindfulness has the power to improve relationships, increase self-control, boost productivity and can lessen depression and anxiety. This workshop is currently meeting over Zoom and is currently planned to continue online through June 2022.

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**Led by Emma Howitt, LPC-S, LCDC, JFS Clinical Director |  
Congregation Shir Ami in partnership with JFS | Second Tuesday of the Month | 11AM |  
Call JFS at (512) 250-1043 or Email [Emma.howitt@shalomaustin.org](mailto:Emma.howitt@shalomaustin.org) to Register**

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### ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 1: Finding Balance***

Are you ready to retrain your mind to think healthy thoughts? Utilizing tools of the Torah and Kabbalah, we will dive inward to examine patterns of thought, and strategies for untangling and transforming them.

LESSON 1: REVEALING HAPPINESS | Happiness is the engine that drives life. In this lesson, we explore some common things that tend to bring us down and what we can do to counteract these negative emotional forces.

LESSON 2: CONFRONTING GUILT | Is guilt the sign of a healthy conscience or the inability to move forward? In this lesson, we differentiate between different forms of guilt.

LESSON 3: OVERCOMING ANXIETY | Successful people — from Michael Jordan to Steve Jobs — have spoken about accepting the role of failure in the journey toward success. So why are we always so anxious about it?

LESSON 4: TRANSCENDING JUDGMENT | We explore methods of challenging our inner cynic to respect other people's journeys and focus on our own growth.

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**Led by Rabbi Levi Levertov | Mondays | October 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7PM  
\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> to Register.**

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## **TEXT & TORAH STUDY**

### ***Beit Midrash***

Beit Midrash students will explore and study selections from Seder Moed, Talmudic material discussing Jewish festivals, and will include both information as to how festivals were/are to be celebrated as well as interesting rabbinic stories and tangents. Students will gain an appreciation of the Talmudic system of questioning and a deeper understanding of traditional Jewish learning. We will continue to follow the general rhythm of Daf-Yomi (a world-wide practice of studying one page of Talmud per day) by highlighting the "best" of that week's scheduled learning. Be part of a larger movement of Jewish learning! No prior background necessary, texts studied primarily in English.

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**Led by Dr. Harvey Raben | Congregation Agudas Achim |  
Sundays, October 3 – December 18 | 11AM | Voluntary Donation  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Mishne Torah k'Seder***

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.

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**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Congregation Tiferet Israel | Fridays | 8:15AM  
No Registration Required | For questions, contact Rabbi Dan Millner at  
[djmillner@gmail.com](mailto:djmillner@gmail.com)**

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### ***Pho-torah-graphy by The Avian Rebbe***

The Avian Rebbe, Aaric Eisenstein, will guide participants in a discussion of the weekly Torah portion through the lens of photography of birds. This will be an interactive dive into both the substance and the process of how they come together. Towards the end of the series, students will be encouraged to find their own approach to experiencing Torah out in the world: through writing, dance, painting, etc. We all have our own lens, and we'll work together as a class to find one(s) through which to explore. Zero prior knowledge required. Brief readings of the upcoming week's Torah portion will be assigned each week.

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**Led by Aaric Eisenstein | Congregation Agudas Achim |  
Wednesdays, October 6 – December 15 | 8:30PM | \$36  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 8: Jewish Vies on the Messiah***

Who or what is the Messiah in Judaism? Is it a person, an idea, an era? How will the Messiah come? What will the Messiah do? How and why has this enigmatic yet central pillar of Jewish faith become the primary source of division between Judaism and other faiths? In this class, we will explore the personality, function and prophetic expectations of the Messiah in Jewish text, tradition and faith.

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**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Mondays | May 2, 9, 16, 23 | 7PM  
\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens April 4 |  
Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 7: 5782 – A Shmita Year***

Shmita is part of a seven year cycle, described in Torah, that calls for forgiveness of debts, land lying fallow, and time limits on indentured servitude. In this course we will look at biblical, rabbinic, and modern texts and consider how we might incorporate ideas of Shmita into our own lives.

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**Led by Rabbi Ellie Steinman | Mondays | April 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7PM  
\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens March 7 |  
Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## ***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning at Lunch | Torah Study Through a Mussar Lens***

Join Rabbi Amy Cohen, the Chief Social Services Officer at Shalom Austin for Torah study through a Mussar lens. This bi-weekly class will begin and end with a reflective experience, a song or meditation. We will study the Torah portion of the week using the book *The Mussar Torah Commentary* edited by Rabbi Barry Block, and we will reflect on how lessons from Torah interwoven with middot (measure or values) influences our lives. Come ready to share, interact, learn and be changed by our sacred text.

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**Led by Rabbi Amy Cohen | Wednesdays |  
October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, December 1 & 15  
12PM | \$72 per Module or \$360 for All  
Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> to Register.**

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## ***Take Your Tanakh Series: The Book of Ezekiel***

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 TYT 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 text, history and destiny truly come to life! A priest stuck in exile, dreaming of the perfect Temple in a perfected 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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**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Congregation Tiferet Israel | Tuesdays | 7PM |  
No Registration Required | For questions, contact Rabbi Dan Millner at  
[djmillner@gmail.com](mailto:djmillner@gmail.com)**

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## ***Take Your Tanakh Series: The Books of Second Samuel***

Come and join the TYT community and learn about the life and times of King David! II Samuel explores how a young David establishes both his kingdom and his kingship. Despite great promise, potential and ability, David is nevertheless beset by external and internal enemies, fighting both physical and spiritual wars. Come and see how David struggles to unite a broken and battered kingdom, establish a capitol city and win the support of his people, while at the same time, striving to remain true to God's Torah and lead a righteous life. No longer a ruddy youth playing the harp and running for his life - II Samuel takes us through the long journey of David's maturation process, omitting nothing, all the while exploring larger questions of morality, repentance, power and politics. While we extol David as one of the greatest Jewish heroes and leaders of all time, this book will frame his life and story in its proper context, look under the surface, and examine the complex personality of King David!

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**Led by Rabbi Dan Millner | Congregation Tiferet Israel | Wednesdays | 8:15AM  
No Registration Required | For questions, contact Rabbi Dan Millner at  
[djmillner@gmail.com](mailto:djmillner@gmail.com)**

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## ***Talmud on Tuesdays***

Join us every Tuesday afternoon at noon (Central) for a lively conversation exploring the riches of our Jewish textual tradition. All backgrounds welcome. Texts provided (online). Add your voice to our rabbinic discussion with joy and steady guidance.

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**Led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Congregation Agudas Achim | Tuesdays | 12PM | Voluntary  
Donation | Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## ***Tanach With Tzahi***

You are invited to an inspiring series: Major lessons from the minor prophets.

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**Led by Hazzan Ben-Moshe | Congregation Beth El | 9/23, 10/12, 11/9, 12/7 | 7:30PM |  
Meeting ID: 82884019311 Passcode: *Shalom***

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## ***Torah Study***

Together we explore the modern world through the common filter of our Jewish identity. We seek to equip our lifelong learners to face the complexity of their lives armed with Jewish knowledge, a greater appreciation of Judaism's profound depths, and a greater understanding of how to lead an inspired life. Join lay leaders to explore and discuss the Torah verse by verse. See how each word and phrase can have meaning in your life.

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**Led by David Cohen & Carole Wood | Congregation Shir Ami | Saturdays, Every other  
Month | 10:30AM | Visit <https://www.shir-ami.com/calendar> to Register.**

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## ***WOD: Wisdom of the Day***

After CAA's Friday morning minyan (8:00-8:30 am), we dive into various commentaries on the weekly Torah portion as we start our day. All are welcome to get a quick dose of learning from our tradition.

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**Led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe | Congregation Agudas Achim | Fridays |  
8:30AM, Following Minyan | Voluntary Donation |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## ***Zoom Town Study Group***

Join us for a monthly exploration of Jewish literature as we seek a deeper understanding of traditional and contemporary topics. This semester we will be learning from Simi Peter's book: Learning to read Midrash. What is Midrash? How do we understand it as we interpret Biblical text? We will explore two genres of Midrash: the parable and the Midrashic story.

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**Led by Dr. Harvey Raben | Congregation Agudas Achim | Monthly on Thursdays |  
October 21, November 18, & December 16 | 12PM |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## **ISRAEL**

***Please check back soon for these offerings***

## **HEBREW**

### ***Advanced Hebrew***

In this class, you will learn how to translate biblical (and prayer book) Hebrew. Students should be reasonably confident, fluid Hebrew readers. We will not be reviewing the Hebrew alphabet or other basic skills.

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**Led by Rabbi Steve Folberg | Congregation Beth Israel | Thursdays |  
October 21 – December 16 | 12PM | \$75 Non-Member Fee |  
Registration required | Email [clergyoffice@bethisrael.org](mailto:clergyoffice@bethisrael.org) to Register**

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### ***Hebrew Crash Course – Level 1***

This introductory course, developed by the National Jewish Outreach Program, is designed for those with little or no background in Hebrew and concentrates on the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills.

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**Led by Davida Charney & Cynthia Winer | Congregation Agudas Achim |  
Sundays, October 3 – December 12 | 11AM | Voluntary Donation |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Hebrew Through Torah***

Are you able to sound out Hebrew words but wish you knew what you were saying? Join us for an informal, organic introduction to the Hebrew language using verses from the weekly Parsha 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 the knowledge of Hebrew you already have, whether you know 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. Same content is covered on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Participants welcomed at either or both.

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**Led by Gail Tosto | Congregation Agudas Achim | Wednesdays and/or Shabbat Saturdays  
October 6 – December 18 | 1PM | Voluntary Donation  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Introduction to Hebrew: A Journey through the Alef-Bet***

This class is for adult learners who have never taken a Hebrew class before OR need a Hebrew refresher from the very beginning.

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**Led by Cantorial Soloist Sarah Avner | Congregation Beth Israel |  
Wednesdays, October 20 – December 22 | 6:45PM | \$75 Non-Member Fee |  
Registration and book purchase required | Email [clergyoffice@bethisrael.org](mailto:clergyoffice@bethisrael.org) to Register**

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### ***Intro to Yiddish***

In this course, we will learn the basics of the language, read short texts, listen to recorded songs and dialogues, speak with one another, write, and even watch movies. Participants will engage with the diverse culture created in Yiddish. Prerequisite: Ability to read and recognize Hebrew letters (comprehension not required). Practice material will be sent to participants in advance.

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**Led by Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Congregation Agudas Achim | Tuesdays  
October 5 – December 14 | 4PM | \$120 |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Modern Hebrew Bet – Early Intermediate***

\*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level. Class will expand Hebrew literacy and conversation skills in a fun, dynamic way. The class will include level-based conversation, reading, and writing practice. 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.

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**Led by Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Congregation Agudas Achim | Wednesdays  
October 6 – December 15 | 4:30PM | \$120 + Cost of text |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Modern Hebrew Gimel – Advanced Intermediate***

\*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level. Students will 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.

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**Led by Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Congregation Agudas Achim | Wednesdays  
October 6 – December 15 | 4:30PM | \$120 + Cost of text |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](https://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Modern Hebrew Dalet – Advanced/Emerging Fluency***

\*New students welcomed upon conversation with instructor to confirm level. Students will 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.

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**Led by Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Congregation Agudas Achim | Mondays  
October 4 – December 13 | 7PM | \$120 + Cost of text |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](https://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## **ARTS & CULTURE**

### ***Beit Café***

Calling all writers and creative spirits! This experience will bring 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,

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**Led by Stacey Glazer & Wendy Tomlinson | Congregation Agudas Achim | Mondays  
Bi-Weekly October 4, 18, November 1, 15, 29, & December 13  
7PM | Voluntary Donation | Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](https://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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there will be an optional open-mic event where participants will be warmly invited to share their work with the community.

### ***CAA Book/Sefer Club***

Join friends for a quarterly discussion of fiction and non-fiction books. Book selections feature both new and distinguished Jewish authors and cover a variety of Jewish themes. Look for the book listings and specific dates at [www.theaustinsynagogue.org/bookclub](http://www.theaustinsynagogue.org/bookclub). Please email [jennifer.rubin@caa-austin.org](mailto:jennifer.rubin@caa-austin.org) with book suggestions.

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**Led by Jennifer Rubin | Congregation Agudas Achim |  
Quarterly on Thursdays | October 28; January 6 | 7PM |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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### ***Cooking in Community: Exploring Jewish Food & Culture***

The Cooking in Community series is a collaboration between Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth Shalom, and Congregation Beth Israel. Each session brings an established chef, culinary scholar, or cookbook author to guide us in an exploration of Jewish food and culture, including a live cooking experience right from our own kitchens.

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**Coordinated by Carly Johnson (TBS), Jennifer Rubin (CAA), & Brooke Hersh-Thompson (CAA) |  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays, meets Quarterly | November 2, February 1, May 3  
7PM | \$18 suggested donation | Visit [bethshalom.org/event/cooking-in-community-exploring-jewish-food-and-culture](http://bethshalom.org/event/cooking-in-community-exploring-jewish-food-and-culture) to Register**

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### ***Great Jewish Painters***

This class gives participants an opportunity to explore and understand Jewish art both for its own uniqueness as well as an expression of Jewish identity. How do we reconcile the second commandment's prohibition of making images with the richness of Jewish visual art? We will explore different and diverse expressions of Jewish art, while emphasizing the mutual relationship and impact between it and the culture in which it was created.

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**Led by Sharon DeKoning Kessel | Congregation Agudas Achim | Fridays  
October 8 - December 17 | 12PM | \$72 |  
Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## ***Happy Bookers Book Club***

Great connections. Lively discussion. Sharing. Join Shir Ami's book club, Happy Bookers, to experience all that and more. New books are chosen by nomination and vote every November-December and the cycle starts afresh in January with a new crop of books.

### 2021 Meeting Dates and Book Selections

1/23/2021 Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English by Natasha Solomons

2/27/2021 A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell

3/20/2021 Song of the Jade Lily by Kirsty Manning

4/24/2021 The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

5/22/2021 Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return To His Jewish Family by Stephen J. Dubner

6/26/2021 The Nesting Dolls by Alina Adams

7/24/2021 The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks

8/21/2021 The History of Love by Nicole Krauss

9/25/2021 Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands by Susan Carol McCarthy

10/23/2021 The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman

11/20/2021 The World to Come by Dara Horn

12/18/2021 American Pastoral by Philip Roth

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**Led by Happy Bookers Book Club | Congregation Shir Ami | One Saturday per month | 10:30AM | Visit <https://www.shir-ami.com/happy-bookers.html> for the specific dates | please contact [administrator@shir-ami.com](mailto:administrator@shir-ami.com) to be added to the list.**

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***Shalom Austin Adult Jewish Learning | Module 5: In the Tower of (Jewish) Song***

What is the soundtrack of our life? How do songs create a culture? We will listen to and learn about the power of song to lift our spirit, offer dissent, sustain memories, and knit people together. We will explore various movements and moments in Yiddish, Hebrew, and English where music became the primary vehicle and vernacular of expression.

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**Led by Rabbi Neil F. Blumofe | Mondays | February 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7PM**  
**\$72 per Module or \$360 for All | Registration for this module opens January 10 |**  
**Visit <https://shalomaustin.org/adultjewishlearning/> for more information.**

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## **JEWISH HISTORY**

### ***King David: The Man Behind the Legend***

The Tanakh provides more detailed biographical information concerning King David than it does for any other Biblical figure, including Moses and the Patriarchs. Nonetheless, the legend of David has largely eclipsed the human being. Contemporary scholar Baruch Halpern has attempted a detailed, often adversarial re-examination of David's personality in his study "David's Secret Demons." We will study selected portions of this work in conjunction with relevant passages from I-II Samuel, I Kings, and the Book of Psalms. In some cases, we will examine a few verses in the original Hebrew, but translations will always be provided and no previous knowledge of the language is required.

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**Led by Mark Long | Congregation Agudas Achim | Sundays**  
**October 3 - December 12 | 9:30AM | Voluntary Donation**  
**Visit [theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education](http://theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education) to Register**

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## **INFORMAL/SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

***Please check back soon for these offerings***