

Congregation Beth Israel
Adult Education Course Offerings

Biblical Text Study

Instructor: Mark Packer

3rd Thursday of the month: 7:00—8:30 PM

Nov 16; Dec 21; Jan 18; Feb 15; Mar 21; Apr 18

Class meets on ZOOM

Come join Mark Packer for a close examination of the text of the Hebrew Bible. In previous years the class has delved into the extensive narrative of King David's career, numerous Psalms, Daniel, the latter part of the Book of Isaiah, I and II Samuel, and I and II Kings. This year, students will begin exploring the Joseph story in Genesis.

No knowledge of Hebrew is required for this class. The instructor will attempt to elucidate the beauty and subtleties of the Hebrew text itself in an effort to bring forth what may not be coming through with full force from the English translations.

There is no fee for this class; however, donations to the Synagogue will be happily accepted.

Jewish Literature

Instructor: Mark Packer

3rd Tuesday of the month: 7:00—8:30 PM

Dec 19; Jan 16; Feb 20; Mar 19; Apr 16; May 21

Class meets on ZOOM

Mark Packer loves leading discussions on Jewish literature. For years he has shared his wisdom with countless students. Join Mark over 6 monthly sessions to talk about the following selected works:

The Rise of David Levinsky, by Abraham Cahan

The Brothers Ashkenazi by Israel Joshua Singer

The course will begin discussing *The Rise of David Levinsky*. Please order and read the first third of the book before the first class.

There is no fee for this class; however, donations to the Synagogue will be happily accepted.

Prayerbook Hebrew Class

Instructor: Andrea Shupack

Time TBD, starting the last week of November, through June.

Understanding Hebrew is the key to experiencing the richness of Jewish prayer. In this class we will learn the most common vocabulary of the siddur and grammar in order to be able to translate basic prayers of the siddur. Through this course, you will also improve your Hebrew reading skills, but some ability to read Hebrew is needed. We will be using the textbook, "Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way" which helps make Hebrew accessible for everyone.

You will be joining a group who have already worked through some of the chapters, so please talk to the instructor about your level to see if this will be a good fit. Andrea is also available to help you prepare before the class begins. Don't hesitate to email Andrea at andreashupack@gmail.com if you are interested and aren't sure if this is right for you. If enough people are interested in starting at the beginning, Andrea will consider starting a second class from the beginning as well.

Two 12-session units (Nov.-Feb. and March-June) are \$96 each

Coming up in 2024

A Jewish Look at Jesus

Instructor: Stuart Berman

There is much debate as to how Jewish was Jesus. Was he a Jewish

reformer on the level with Hillel? Or was he a revolutionary, preaching a new theology, alien to main stream Judaism? We hear Jesus quoted all the time but do we know what he actually said? What we do know is that the writers of the Gospels were very knowledgeable about the Jewish Bible and quote it frequently. In our four sessions we will look at one of the four Gospels each week and ask ourselves, is this really Jewish?. We might also bring in some later material like the Letters of Paul to see how the message evolved. We welcome all opinions and backgrounds and let's see if we can come to some of our own conclusions. We will use The Jewish Annotated New Testament as a text.

The Hebrew Prophets

Instructor: Rabbi Joshua Samuels

More than any other figures in the ancient world, the prophets of Israel helped to define and strengthen the covenantal bond between the people and God. In this course we will learn about these individuals in our tradition, who: spoke out against injustices, modeled compassion, reason, and leadership, and were the mouthpiece for God. This course will be a survey of the Hebrew Prophets where we will explore all of these themes while looking at sections from the second book of the TaNaCH (Hebrew Bible) called Nevi'im or Prophets. The text for the course, along with the Bible, will be Victor Matthews' *Social World of the Hebrew Prophets*. This book provides an excellent background into the social and historical milieu from which these ambassadors to God came from. The Hebrew texts will be in translation.

Beginning Torah Trope

Instructor: Andrea Shupack

Have you ever wanted to try chanting from the Torah, but feel daunted by the task? Or do you chant with the aid of a recording and want to become more skilled and independent in your chanting? Come learn how to chant from the Torah while also learning what trope is and how it works. Andrea teaches in a simple and clear way, demystifying the art of chanting, and

making it achievable for everyone. Ability to read Hebrew is helpful. No other experience necessary.

REGISTRATION

To register for Adult Education classes, please contact Mary Somerville in the main office at 360-733-8890 or office@bethisraelbellingham.org.