

Embracing Judaism

is a pathway for the adult learner who wishes to discover or deepen Jewish knowledge. In 18 sessions we will provide a journey into Jewish spirituality, thought, ritual and culture. We will also discuss the scope of Jewish history, the meaning of Jewish peoplehood, Jewish diversity and the importance of Israel to the Jewish people.

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For more information contact
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www.ibjewish.org

Where and when will classes meet?

Classes will meet at Beth El Temple in West Hartford.

The program will meet on 18 Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:45 PM beginning on **October 11, 2018**.

Program Fees:

The program will offer three sessions of six weeks each. Registration is \$75 per trimester. Students registering for all 18 sessions will pay a total of \$180. Significant others, full-time students and alumni of IBJ will receive a 50% discount.

There will be required readings. Many will be from texts you will want to acquire. Some readings will be provided as handouts.

Scholarship funds are available. Contact Rabbi Plavin to discuss your need in complete confidentiality.

**Embracing Judaism is offered by
the Rabbinical Assembly
of Connecticut
in partnership with the
Miller Introduction to
Judaism Program at
American Jewish University**

Embracing Judaism 2018-2019

Whether you want to reboot your Judaism, satisfy your intellectual curiosity or consider Judaism as a new faith, you are invited to delve into the richness of the Jewish heritage.

The program is offered in three six-week trimesters. Sign up for one, two or all three.



From past participants:

“I found the class and Rabbi Plavin to be warm and inviting to new comers as well as patient and kind. I found him to be extremely tolerant and accepting of people and their beliefs. Through this class **I found myself falling in love with Judaism.**”

“I found The Basic Judaism class with Rabbi Plavin to be very informative and easy to follow. I particularly enjoyed the way he pulled our class together like the new family we were beginning to form. ”

“Thank you so much for facilitating the wonderful class....It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience. ..I couldn't have asked for a better teacher or better introduction to this religion I **h**ave chosen!”

“Observing Mitzvot (commandments) is the primary way Jews live a religious life. We express our search for God and our quest to live in holiness through the observance of Mitzvot. The Mitzvot inspire us by focusing our thoughts and elevating our feelings: they guide us toward behavior imbued with certain values and goals. The observance of Mitzvot shapes our actions and sanctifies our behavior. We make ourselves open to the spirit through the act of fulfilling Mitzvot.”

-Rabbi Pamela Barmash

The study of Mitzvot is the major focus of Embracing Judaism.



You will learn about:

- ✧ Holy days and festivals
- ✧ Sabbath
- ✧ Jewish concepts of God and ethics
- ✧ Synagogue and prayer
- ✧ Life cycle observances including: birth, bar & bat mitzvah, marriage and death
- ✧ Kashrut: the Jewish dietary laws
- ✧ History and culture of the Jewish people
- ✧ Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust
- ✧ Israel and Zionism
- ✧ Diversity of contemporary Jewish life

Who are our students?

Embracing Judaism provides educational background for all seeking to explore Judaism.

- Jews who never had the opportunity of a Jewish education in their youth.
- Individuals considering conversion to Judaism
- Gentiles who want to better understand the religion of their significant other or a family member.
- Non-Jews who may have an intellectual curiosity about the mother faith of both Christianity and Islam.