

## 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.

## *Embracing Judaism*

For more information contact Rabbi Richard Plavin, Director  
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[www.ibjewish.org](http://www.ibjewish.org)

## Where and when will classes meet?

Classes will meet at the Emanuel synagogue in West Hartford.

The program will meet on 18 Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:45 PM beginning on **October 31, 2019**.

### Program Fees:

The cost for the entire 18 week program is \$180. Significant others, full-time students and alumni of the program will receive a 50% discount. Check should be made payable “RA of CT” and mailed to Rabbi Richard Plavin, 488 E. Center St. Manchester, CT 06040

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 2019-2020

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.

Participants may join the program at any point and continue into the following year to complete all 18 units.



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.”

“As someone who grew up in a Jewish household and having gone to Jewish day school, I found this to be a very refreshing and beneficial course; helping me reconnect with a lot of things I learned growing up that may have fallen to the back of my memory. I believe classes like this are critical to not only helping others on their path to Judaism but also for Jews who want to rediscover their roots and gain a better understanding of all the things that go into and are part of being Jewish.”

“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 have 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.