

## 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  
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[www.ibjewish.org](http://www.ibjewish.org)

## Where and when will classes meet?

Classes will meet in-person at the Beth El Temple in West Hartford.

The program will meet on 18 Thursday evenings, 6:00 – 7:40 PM beginning on **January 5, 2023**.

### Program Fees:

The cost for the entire 18 week program is \$180. Full-time students and alumni of the program will receive a 50% discount. Significant others who may be interested in participating should speak with Rabbi Plavin. Check should be made payable to “Rabbinical Assembly of America” and mailed with the registration form 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 confidence.

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

# Embracing Judaism 2023

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.”

“Thank you so much for facilitating this 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
- ✧ 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.