

## 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  
(860) 573-4503  
riplavin@gmail.com

## Where and when will classes meet?

Classes will meet in-person at a West Hartford synagogue

**The program will meet in person on 18 Wednesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:45 PM beginning on January 7, 2026. The class meets at Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.**

### 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 are urged to participate at no additional cost.. Your 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 2026



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.



“ I found the class and to be warm and inviting to newcomers. The rabbis were all patient and kind. I found them 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 Embracing Judaism class to be very informative and easy to follow. I particularly enjoyed the way the rabbis pulled our class together like the new family we were beginning to form. ”



## Faculty



**Rabbi Debra Cantor**  
*Congregation B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom*



**Rabbi Daniel Victor**  
*Beth Sholom B'nai Israel*



**Rabbi Richard Plavin**  
*Program Administrator  
Rabbi Emeritus  
Beth Sholom B'nai Israel*



**Rabbi James Rosen**  
*Beth El Temple*



**Rabbi David Small**  
*The Emanuel Synagogue*



**Rabbi Rachel Zerlin**  
*Beth El Temple*

## You will learn about:

- ✧ Holy days and festivals
- ✧ The Bible and Jewish Law
- ✧ 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
- Anyone who want to better understand the religion of their significant other or a family member.
- Anyone who may have an intellectual curiosity about Judaism.