

Welcome! Our Exploring Jewish Living class will begin in the fall, but in the meantime, here are some resources to help you get started (or continue) on your Jewish journey. We hope this will help you learn more about Jewish life, and explore what it might mean to deepen your connection with or join the Jewish people.

Ways to learn more about Jewish life:

Suggested introductory books for the Exploring Jewish Living class

- The Observant Life, edited by Martin S. Cohen
- A Book of Life, by Michael Strassfeld
- Jewish Literacy, by Joseph Telushkin
- The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary, by Michael Strassfeld

Other book recommendations

- Here All Along, by Sarah Hurwitz
- My Jewish Year, by Abigail Pogrebin
- The Sabbath, by Abraham Joshua Heschel
- To Life!, by Harold Kushner
- The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia, by Stephanie Butnick, Liel Liebovitz, and Mark Oppenheimer
- Shabbat: The Family Guide to Preparing for and Celebrating the Sabbath, by Ron Wolfson
- This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation, by Rabbi Alan Lew

Online resources

- <https://exploringjudaism.org/> (the home for Conservative Judaism online)
- www.myjewishlearning.com (excellent articles about lots of Jewish topics!)
- www.bimbam.com (Jewish videos for kids and adults alike)
- www.kveller.com (articles about Jewish parenting)
- www.heyalma.com (geared towards young adults, articles about Judaism and pop culture, with an emphasis on diversity-- they also have a great instagram presence!)
- www.hebcal.com (interactive online Jewish calendar)
- <https://globaljews.org> (information and education about diverse Jewish communities)
- [Jews of Color Initiative](https://www.jewsandqueer.org) (advocacy and education about diverse Jewish communities)
- [The Times of Israel | News from Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish World](https://www.thetimesofisrael.com) (news about Israel and the Jewish world - generally with a politically centrist approach)
- [Sefaria.org](http://www.sefaria.org) (on-line access to Jewish texts)
- [Hadar | Hadar.org](http://www.hadar.org) (egalitarian serious Jewish learning opportunities, including online classes and written essays)
- [About SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva | SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva](https://www.svara.org) (SVARA is dedicated to the serious study of Talmud through the lens of queer experiences.)
- [Home - Hazon](http://www.home-hazon.org) (Jewish environmental organization)

Ways to get involved in the Jewish community:

- Livestream Beth Shalom's Shabbat morning services, each Saturday from 9:30am until about noon, here: <https://venue.streamspot.com/d893b06f>
- Join us in-person for Shabbat services (or other programs). View our calendar: <https://bethshalomseattle.shulcloud.com/calendar>

- Learn about other Beth Shalom activities. Sign up to receive Beth Shalom emails (if you don't already) by emailing communications@bethshalomseattle.org
- Sign up for weekly Seattle-area Jewish community events emails <https://www.jewishinseattle.org/current-virtual-events/> (scroll to the bottom of the page for sign-up)
- Put yourself out there! We know it can be intimidating, but introducing yourself to people at services or other programs will help you build connections and make Beth Shalom start to feel like more of a community for you.
- **Ask us for recommendations of books or resources for specific interests you have.** (For example: spirituality, history, prayer, Torah study, holidays, conversion, diverse Jewish communities, social justice, environment, etc.)