



Adult & Family Learning Programs



“The world is sustained by these three:

Torah, Avodah, and G’milut Hasadim

Learning, Spiritual Life, and Acts of Loving Kindness.”

[*Mishnah, Avot 1:2*]

Learning is a pillar of the world, and of our Jewish life. Join us in some of the many exciting and diverse programs and learning events.

This year, we continue our best programs, and also added new and unique opportunities: on the weekend and during the week; discussion groups, speakers, text-based learning; in-house at Beth Shalom, and virtually on Zoom, or in an ethnic restaurant in town.

Short series or continuing classes, weekly or monthly, fixed groups and stand-alone events – we hope that among all our offers you will find a program which is right for you to engage in probing and stimulating learning.

Weekly and Monthly Learning and Discussion

Tanakh (Bible) Talks

A weekly and lively time for discussions on and around Biblical texts, current events, and everything we are inspired to discuss.

Going on for two decades, still having much to learn and discuss!

We begin with a Jewish text to start our discussion on the topic it presents, and on the many more matters that we bring to the text from our own perspectives, life experiences, and current events around us.

All texts are provided, in English, and there is no previous experience needed - Open to all, led by Rabbi Ariel Edery, all **Mondays from 10:30 – noon**.

On Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81237721399?pwd=a1VEQ1hKUG9peUkySWtNeHp4M1JDUT09>

“Got Culture?”

These are 3 things we can safely say about Jews: we’ve been around many countries, we like to get together to talk, and even more if it is around good food!

We have a new tradition that combines all those: *Got Culture* - we meet at some ethnic food restaurant, where we enjoy a unique meal as we take the opportunity to learn about the country where the food originates, its culture, and about that place’s unique connections with the Jewish community. Rabbi Edery provides videos and articles for those interested to review before the dinner, and during the dinner he leads a short presentation of the highlights of the culture and the Jewish history of each community.

In past years, we visited Carmen’s **Cuban**, Awaze **Ethiopian**, and **US Southern Danny’s Bar-B-Que**, and we explored **Chinese, Turkish, and Indian** local restaurants.

There is still much more to enjoy, eat, and learn!

Future dinners: *all details tba, as we plan how to safely gather during these Covid times.*

RSVP’s will be needed for each event – you can do that as the dates approach responding to our weekly e-news, or contacting our office.

Adult Hebrew is Returning!

By popular demand, Beth Shalom will offer a new **Adult Hebrew** class, starting right after the High Holy Days. The class, taught by Rabbi Mike Stevens, will meet on Zoom on **Sunday mornings, from 10:00-11:30 a.m., from September 19 through December 19.**

No previous knowledge of Hebrew is required. The class is open to beginning students, as well as those who would like to brush up on their skills; students in our previous Adult Hebrew classes are invited to take the course as a refresher, or “drop in” at any time. At the end of the course, students will be able to read Hebrew fluently, will be able to follow along and participate in a Shabbat service, and will have a prayer vocabulary of about a hundred words.

Each session of the course will be recorded, to help students practice their reading between classes, and Mike is always available by phone, on FaceTime, or on Zoom to practice with you.

The book we use for the course is *Learn Hebrew Today: Alef-Bet for Adults*, by Paul Michael Yedwab and Howard I. Bogot (URJ Press, New York).

To register for the class, please drop a note to Mike at michael.stevens@prodigy.net.

Book Club

The Beth Shalom Morning Book Club meets on the **first Friday of the month** at 10:30 at Beth Shalom.

Both fiction and non-fiction titles are read and discussed. All are invited to attend and are encouraged to suggest books, which address Jewish themes. At each meeting, members decide on next book choices. Genres have included historical fiction, current events, Jewish authors, history, and Jewish literature. Discussions are lively and informative and provide a welcoming social context.

MOVIE NIGHT in our Backyard!

Bring your chair or blanket, your drink or food of choice, and join us in a cool Fall evening for a movie. We'll screen a film with some Jewish connection, and we may exchange impressions as we enjoy our backyard following the movie.

Date: 10/2 at 7pm (rain date 10/16) Movie: American Pickle

Looking Forward – Winter and Spring:

- **Adult Bat & Bar Mitzvah**

If you were not allowed to have it, not offered to have it, or it wasn't your thing back at age 13...now you can do it!

Following our beautiful and meaningful experience with this class last year, we will offer a course where you will

-Learn/refresh Hebrew (taking our Adult Hebrew Class – see above)

-Learn essential personal and synagogue rituals

-Celebrate a Bar/t Mitzvah in our sanctuary on a Shabbat service, delivering a Devar Torah (Torah lesson) and helping lead the service.

Team-taught by Rabbi Mike, Rabbi Ariel, and to chant Torah – Lisa Sharp and Lynn Calnek.

Contact Rabbi Ariel Edery for questions and details rabbi@bethshalomnc.org

How to lead a Shabbat and Holiday Service?

A beautiful aspect of Jewish tradition is that it is open to all, and all of us have full and equal access to it. In fact, our active participation is desired and encouraged!

We'll lead a short course where you can learn:

- **The logic of our Prayer Book and prayers selection**
- **The choreography on the Bimah (the Holy Ark, bowing, facing East, and other details)**
- **Handling Torah, Shofar, and ritual artifacts and symbols**
- **The art of leading a congregation in song and prayer**

And, as you suspected, you will be invited to apply the skills you learn through the year in our weekly and holiday services!

Get Real Israel – A series of Live Conversations with Israelis

Often our first association with Israel is ‘conflict and politics’...

But Israel is so much more, more diverse, more changing, more fascinating than we get to hear.

We will have one-to-one conversations with several Israelis, from their homes, through Zoom. We may chat with an American immigrant in Israel, with an Arab Israeli, with a religious Israeli, with a secular Israeli, with an Israeli activist for a good cause, and more...

Get to know, hear, and chat with real people who will share from their personal experience what it means to live in Israel.

We envision each conversation as a piece of a mosaic – let’s observe each one, and we’ll see much better the fuller picture of Israel.

Winter Sundays at noon – more details TBD



Back to the Roots – discover your family Jewish history, reviewing stories, documents, and guided by the great genealogical tools and data we now have.

Triangle Area Rabbis Present **Jewish essentials**



JEWISH ESSENTIALS

FALL 2021

A ten session introduction to Judaism

7:00-8:30PM

LOCATION: TEMPLE BETH OR

OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26

NOV 2, 9, 16, 23

DEC 7 & 14

Register: <https://bit.ly/2021JEFall>

Want to get a good overview of the Jewish holidays, life cycle events, and learn from a variety of diverse area rabbis? Then consider taking the Introduction to Judaism Survey Course, taught by several of the Triangle rabbis, including also our Rabbi Ariel Eder.

A ten-week class offering an overview of Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, and traditions taught by rabbis from area Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox backgrounds. The class extends a pathway to Jewish studies for conversion, interfaith couples, and Jews wishing to refresh or update their religious education. **Classes are open to all! Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00pm.**

All Classes will be held at: Temple Beth Or, 5315 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612. For more info on the course and registration call 781-4895 (x100).



Beth Shalom is a Jewish community formed by people of diverse backgrounds. We are united in a common desire to be inspired by the richness of our tradition through active participation in all aspects of Jewish life. As individuals and families, we strive to take part in meaningful religious practice, develop a love for life-long learning, engage with Jewish ethical ideals and moral values, reaffirm the bonds that unite Jews around the world, and build a communal home for all our members.