

REGISTER NOW!

Online: www.bethor.org/calendar and select the class by month & date ■ Call: 215-646-5806 x220



LIFELONG LEARNING

2023-24 Course Catalog





SYNAGOGUE-BASED CLASSES

A variety of interactive and thought-provoking classes are scheduled to take place at Beth Or this year. Register for as many courses as you like from the selections in this brochure.

Register online, www.bethor.org/calendar and select the class by month & date or contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, 215-646-5806 x 220.

INSTRUCTOR: RABBI GREGORY S. MARX

□ Finding Happiness in Your Life Tuesday, October 10 & 24, 7pm – 8pm

Only 31% of Americans when asked if they are happy actually report that they are. Ironically, Israelis rank as one of the happiest peoples in the world, even though they live in a very tense and tumultuous part of the world. A recent Gallup survey ranked Israel seventh out of 124 countries based on the happiness level of residents. Why do you think 63 percent of Israeli respondents said they were happy — more than in the US or UK? What do they know that we do not? What practices are there in Judaism that can assist us in finding joy in our life?

We will use the Daylio Journal to track our emotions and evaluate actually how happy we are.

□ Jewish Spiritual Practices Designed to Bring Meaning into Your Life Tuesday, November 7, 7pm – 8pm

Spirituality is a slippery word. There are some who see it as an attitude that lives emotionally. Others understand it as a search for meaning, purpose, and direction in life in the light of a larger context. Still others connect it to personal growth, religious experience, services, prayer or belief. I tend to see it as an orientation that sees life more as material and measures its impact on us by how much meaning it brings into our days.

This class will introduce you to a Jewish practice of being more spiritual and of understanding one's Judaism as more than cultural belonging, and more about practices that bring meaning and purpose.

INSTRUCTOR: RABBI JASON BONDER

□ **Learner's Minyan**

**Saturday, October 14 & February 10,
9am – 11am**

Do you have questions about the liturgy for Shabbat? Are you curious about the history, theology and Shabbat practice of our community? If so, this class is for you. Join Rabbi Bonder to learn about the the whys and wherefores of our B'nai Mitzvah service, with a complementary brunch provided. Then, join the clergy to see a service at 11am, sitting in the back of the sanctuary with one of the rabbis for explanations during the service.

□ **History of Israel 101**

Tuesday, October 17, 7pm – 8pm

Israel is now in its 75th year of existence. How did Israel become what it is today? What have Israel's largest challenges been? What have Israel's biggest gifts been to the world? Come explore Israel's rich and complicated history.

□ **Israel Q&A**

Tuesday, November 14, 7pm – 8pm

What questions do you have about Israel? What have you always wanted to know? What have you always been too shy to ask? Come study with Rabbi Bonder and Israeli Tour Guide, Meirav Atmor, as we learn about the world's only Jewish State.

□ **Impossible Takes Longer**

Tuesday, November 21, 7pm – 8pm

Has Israel lived up to the vision of its founders 75 years in? American-Israeli author, Daniel Gordis, asks and attempts to answer this important question in his new book: *Impossible Takes Longer: 75 Years After Its Creation, Has Israel Fulfilled Its Founders' Dreams?* Join Rabbi Bonder for a review of this important book. Reading the book beforehand is not required.

INSTRUCTOR: CANTOR MURLEY

□ **Adult B'nai Mitzvah - Year 2 of a Two-Year Class**

**Sundays, 11:15am - 12:30pm: 10/8, 11/12,
12/3, 1/21, 2/4, 3/3, 4/7**

Join Cantor Murley in year 2 of a two-year Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. This class is for those who completed the first year of study. We will continue learning about prayers, Hebrew, and Torah as we prepare to lead the congregation in worship at the Adult B'nai Mitzvah service on Friday, April 12!

□ **Adult Confirmation-Year 2 of a Two-Year Class**

**Sundays, 11:15am - 12:30pm: 10/22,
11/19, 12/10, 1/28, 2/25, 4/14,
5/28 (Tues)**

Join Cantor Murley in year 2 of a two-year Adult Confirmation class. This class is for those who completed the first year of study. We will continue to take an in-depth look at the areas of Jewish faith, history, and philosophy as we prepare to lead the congregation in worship at the Adult Confirmation service on Friday, May 31!

INSTRUCTOR: AARON NIELSENHULTZ

□ Jews in Literature: Short Stories **Tuesday, November 21, 8pm – 9pm**

In a one-night class, we'll read together a short story by a Jewish writer. We'll look at what we can learn about Jewish life, the portrayal of Jews and how fiction can help us understand our own lives. Come if you're interested in Judaism, fiction, or even just having a fun conversation.

GENERAL CLASS OFFERINGS

□ Torah Study: A Return to Basics **Starting Saturday, October 14, 9:30am – 10:30am**

Taught by Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Bonder & Rabbi Lefkowitz

Back in 1990, Rabbi Marx brought torah study to Beth Or on Shabbat morning. Over the years, we have studied Torah, Talmud, Midrash, Jewish values and history. Over the course of the years, we have met for over 1400 classes. Well, now it's time to return to the original premise. We will study the Parashat HaShavua, the torah portion of the week, learning the basics and the fundamentals of deep torah immersion. No RSVP required.

□ Adult Hebrew **Mondays OR Tuesdays, beginning in October, 5pm – 5:30pm**

How's your Hebrew? A little rusty? Perhaps non-existent? Let's learn Siddur Hebrew from the beginning! Focusing on just a few letters at a time, you'll gain knowledge and confidence, and even after the first session, you'll be reading Hebrew. Two class levels are offered: Beginners (first year) and Intermediate (second year). Class sessions will be determined by the day that works for students who sign up. When you RSVP, please indicate which class level and which day (Monday/Tuesday) you prefer.

Cost: \$18/person for materials.

RSVP to Aaron Nielsenshultz,
aaron@bethor.org.

□ NEW!! Israeli Dancing **Tuesdays, October 10 & 17 and** **November 14 & 28, 8pm - 9pm**

Join Cantor Murley and Israeli dance instructor Rak Dan for an Israeli Dance class series for adults, where we will learn both classic and contemporary Israeli circle, line, and partner dances. (Don't worry - no partner necessary!) Connect to Israeli culture in a fun and energetic way. Don't forget to tell your friends about it and bring them along! Must commit to all 4 dates.





Cooking with Gass

□ Fall Recipes

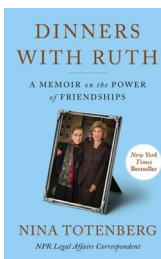
Monday, October 23, 7pm – 8:30pm

□ Thanksgiving Recipes

Monday, November 13, 7pm – 8:30pm

Join Alyson Gass in the Beth Or Kitchen for her popular, hands-on cooking classes. Learn a few new recipes to introduce at your next family gathering. Sign up for one class or come for both! Space is limited.

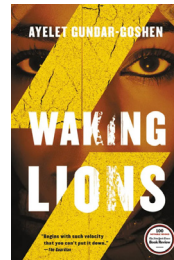
Beth Or Jewish Book Lovers' Series 2023-24 Book Selections & Discussions



- **Dinners with Ruth**
by Nina Totenberg
Wednesday, October 25, 7:30pm



- **The Thread Collectors**
by Shaunna J. Edwards and
Alyson Richman
Wednesday, March 27, 7:30pm



- **Waking Lions**
by Ayelet Gundor-Goshen
Wednesday, November 29, 7:30pm
- **To Be Announced**
One Book One Jewish Community
Book Selection of the Year
Wednesday, May 1, 7:30pm

All discussions will take place in-person at Beth Or with a Zoom options. Link will be provided upon RSVP. Please contact Dottie Singer, ds1403@hotmail.com, with any questions about the Jewish Book Lovers' Series and to RSVP for the discussions.



TAKE OUT JUDAISM

Gather a small group and we will bring the learning to you! Our clergy and instructors offer a variety of courses that can take place at your convenience in the comfort of your home. Please contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, 215-646-5806 x220 for additional details and to schedule one of the in-home courses.

TORAH TO GO



Request to reserve a time to “host” a Torah in your own home! Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Bonder or Aaron Nienshultz will lead a discussion for your friends and family. This is a wonderful opportunity for our B’nai Mitzvah to prepare for their Torah reading. Following the discussion, the Torah stays in your home for a week.



INSTRUCTOR: RABBI GREGORY S. MARX

□ **The Ghost of Leo Frank and Broadway**

Jew Hatred is a communal trauma and one of the most profound stories of that hatred revolves around a poorly understood man from Atlanta, Georgia, Leo Frank, who was lynched for raping and murdering Mary Phagan in a Georgian Pencil Factory. From this trauma arose the KKK and ADL. Learn history and how we still struggle with the trauma today.

□ **Disrupting Judaism.**

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld wrote a book "Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st century". In it he wrote, "For what purpose are we preserving Judaism? Just to preserve it for its own sake is not compelling to me. If Jews no longer find Judaism meaningful or if it turns out Judaism can only flourish when we are being persecuted or by withdrawing from the world into separatist enclaves, then I am not sure Judaism can or will survive. The argument for observance for continuity's sake seems to me wrongheaded and one that I think people will increasingly find unconvincing." This will be the basis for our discussion.

INSTRUCTOR: RABBI JASON BONDER

□ **Creating Your Personalized Jewish Life**

The founders of Reform Judaism envisioned that each Jewish person would be informed of Jewish traditions and make personal decisions about what works for them to lead a Jewish life. Rabbi Bonder can help you walk through the process of constructing a plan to live a meaningful Jewish life.

□ **Raising Jewish Children in Today's Environment**

Judaism has wonderful resources to equip our children with finding meaning and joy. What particular wisdom can we find from both the ancient sages and modern Jewish sages? What tools can we give them to confront the challenges of living in a modern, sometimes hostile world? Join Rabbi Bonder to help you formulate a plan to raise your children in a meaningful Jewish environment. Meet other Beth Or parents to share and joys and challenges in Jewish child rearing.



INSTRUCTOR: AARON NIELSENSHULTZ

□ **The Aleph-Bet of Kabbalah**

Jewish mysticism is a deep, complicated area. At the same time, there are elements of it that we can understand immediately and personally. In the comfort of your own home with your friends and family, let me share with you the basics of this amazing and potentially life-changing system of thinking.



YOBO (YOUTH OF BETH OR) PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Contact the Religious School to register for teen courses, 215-646-7417.

☐ **Sunday Nights**

Programming for 7th-9th & 11th-12th grades meets 2-4 times per month from 5pm – 6:45pm.

Our classes involve hands-on, interactive learning, food and a social program, often including volunteer service programs every time we meet.





ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS

□ **Sunday/Midweek Hebrew Madrichim Program**

This YOBO class places students in Sunday or midweek Hebrew classrooms as assistant teachers, or madrichim. *Madrichim* report to their assigned class every session during the year for their classroom duties. They may also receive further training and development in our monthly *Madrichim* workshop sessions on Sundays. These workshops provide teens with information on organization, classroom management, teaching responsibilities, and leadership. 11th and 12th grade madrichim must apply for these paid assistant teaching slots. Please be in touch with Aaron Niensenshultz for an application.

□ **Confirmation**

Confirmation is our 10th grade class within our teen program, YOBO (Youth of Beth Or). Confirmation meets on its own, separate from YOBO, two-to-three Sunday evenings a month with Rabbi Marx and Aaron Niensenshultz. Our goal is to help our teenagers—young Jewish adults—articulate what Judaism means to them and what they think about God, all culminating when our Confirmation students lead services during the holiday of Shavuot. Along the way, students learn about themselves, rediscover old friends, make new ones, and gain a whole new understanding of what it means to be Jewish!

□ **Post-Confirmation**

11th and 12th grade students meet with Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Bonder, or Aaron Niensenshultz to continue our conversations about being adult Jews. We'll look at current events and topical ideas while developing our Jewish minds together.

□ **Travel**

YOBO also provides travel opportunities for our older students: 10th-12th graders can travel to Washington, D.C. over a weekend in February for the L'taken Seminar where they learn about the lobbying process and then lobby their lawmakers on Capitol Hill. This is a life-changing trip!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BEIT SEFER *Café*



**Beit Sefer Café returns on
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:30pm – 9pm**

DETAILS TO COME.



Congregation
Beth Or

239 Welsh Road
Maple Glen, PA 19002

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2023-24 Lifelong Learning classes are FREE for Beth Or members.
\$50 donation suggested for non-members.
Advanced registration required.

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▪ **Call: 215-646-5806 ext. 220**