

## 4 good reasons to get yourself a Zug

As we leave the High Holiday season, we begin a new Jewish year, along with COVID. Again. We try to remain patient and positive while reminding ourselves, in the words of the Rosh Hashanna liturgy היום הרת עולם, that the world is “pregnant with possibilities.” If you do not recognize an opportunity knocking on your door, look again.

After many months of preparation TBE’s Adult Education Committee is rolling out a pilot program in partnership with Project Zug, under the auspices of the internationally recognized NYC based Hadar Institute of Jewish Learning.

This incredible program is now available to us. Why should you take advantage of this opportunity and make it your own? Why get yourself a Zug?

### **What does “Zug” even mean and what are “Project Zug’s” goals?**

The Hebrew word zug means "pair" or "couple." In this context it references the ancient practice of partnered study, or havruta learning. With clever use of technology, “Project Zug” updates this concept for our 21st century lifestyle. Through one-on-one paired (havruta) learning, Project Zug seeks to connect Jews across the world with each other and with the richness of Jewish textual tradition.

Here’s why you should get yourself a Zug (partner for study) and why you should do it now:

### **Low Hanging Fruit to choose & pick**

To borrow a metaphor from the field of economics, “Project Zug” makes participation very easy to achieve.

Meet with your zug to learn in person on your porch, over the phone, or via any video chat platform you choose. (We will be available for any technical assistance you may need). Meet as often and as long as you like. Over the four week course, material in both video and text format will be shared weekly. However, you can choose to meet for your sessions either weekly for one hour, twice a week for half an hour, or any other way you choose. The principle is choice. In this ever changing new reality, do it the way it works for you!

### **Really relevant**

While learning Jewish texts always has relevance, we chose to begin with a four week course timely entitled: “Out of the Ruins: Jewish Wisdom on Resilience”. Encountering the text at this time affords us an opportunity to shed light on our current situation in all its complexity.

### **Comradery without COVID**

Adult learners never stop searching for meaning. The past 16 months have taught us the important lesson of meaningful human connections. When two Jews meet over a text magical things happen. A one-on-one setting is a perfect way to practice deep listening, while learning from one another to deepen a friendship.

**Everything is possible so ask away!**

The structure of learning with “Project Zug” and the fantastic guidance given by its faculty, encourages a limitless learning experience. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or background in Jewish text study is necessary. You will gain the most if you debate and struggle with the text. You will experience how chevruta pairs are able to come to a totally new understanding of the text, that neither person could have achieved on their own.

Join the virtual kick-off event on Zoom with Rabbi Avi Killip on Sunday, October 17 at 10 a.m.

To register go to [www.bethelallentown.org](http://www.bethelallentown.org)