

Small Groups: Beth Am B'Yachad (together) 5780

Liberation Torah Study

Led by: Rachel Zerrell

Dates/times: Tuesday evenings Jan 14 & 28, Feb 11 & 25, March 10 & 31, April 7 & 21

Location: Rachel's home in Capitol Hill

Group make-up: 6-8 adults

What can we learn about creating collective liberation from studying our ancient sacred texts together, with courage and curiosity? If you love exploring the Hebrew meanings of our sacred texts (regardless of whether you already know any Hebrew!), you're passionate about social justice and collective liberation, and you want to gather and learn with fellow Jews across generations, this is the Torah study for you.

Jewish Tween (4th-5th graders)/Parent Cooking Group

Led by: Julie Seltzer

Dates/time: Sundays at 3pm – Nov 4, Dec 15, Jan 12, Feb 9 & March 15

Location: Julie's home in and then others in the group will host

Group make-up: 6 pairs of a 4th/5th grader and a parent

A place where you and a group of tweens with the same love and passion for cooking will meet together once a month to cook amazing treats. Every month we will have a guest chef who will lead us in a Jewish recipe.

Writing Group

Led by: Marilyn Layton

Dates/time: Sunday mornings, about once per month at 9:30am

Location: Marilyn's House in Laurelhurst

Group make up: 8-10 adults

Temple Beth Am's Writers group has been meeting since 1991, generally once a month, depending on everyone's schedule. We write and share our work each meeting, followed by critiques (always kind!) and discussion. Once yearly we share three or four essays at services with the congregation. This groups is opening up for new writers!

If you are interested in joining, please contact Marilyn Layton at 206-963-9015 or email her at msrhlayton@comcast.net.

Musical Mishigas

Led by: David Kosins & Alan Genatossio

Dates/time: Fridays at 7pm - Nov 15, Dec 20, Jan 17, Feb 21, March 13 & April 24

Location: David (Queen Anne) and Alan (Magnolia) will host and then others in the group

Group make up: 8-10 adults

This group will meet one Friday evening a month, starting with a low-key Shabbat pot-luck dinner before enjoying an evening of music making. Acoustic, blues, folk, Americana and maybe a bissle of klezmer – we'll share and make music together! This group is for people with at least intermediate level instrumental and/or vocal ability and are excited to jam. BYOI – bring your own instrument(s).

Climate & Environmental Justice Group

Led by: Richard Becker

Dates/time: November 6, 20; December 4, 18; January 15, 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Location: Richard's home in Bryant (please note there is a flight of stairs to reach this cat friendly home)

Group make up: 8-12 adults

How can we work to repair our world in ways that embrace justice for those who are most impacted by climate change and other forms of environmental harm, and how can our teachings inform this work? In this group we will explore our relationship with the natural world, the environmental challenges we face, and the ways that we and Beth Am can engage with the many people and groups involved in climate and environmental justice in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Jewish Spirituality and Kabbalah w/ Cantor Victor

Led by: Gabriela Hannach

Dates/time: Saturdays for Havdallah 4:30-6:30pm - Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 18, Feb 8, March 7 and April 4

Location: Gabriela's House near Mathew's Beach

Group make up: 8-12 adults

What exactly is Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah? How can I incorporate ancient spiritual teachings in my daily life? What is the red string about? Come and discover Jewish spirituality and kabbalah with Cantor Victor through learning and discussion. We'll begin each meeting with Havdallah. This group is not a "Kabbalah Class" but a way to connect more deeply to Judaism through set-reflection while getting to know one another more deeply.

Spiritual, Curious and Jewishly connected? Exploring Prayer w/ Rabbi Jason

Led by: Diana Brement

Dates/time: Thursdays at 7pm - Feb. 27; Mar 5, 12 and 26; Apr. 2, Plus a field trip to services on Sat. March 21.

Location: Diana's home in Matthew's Beach

Group make up: 8-12 adults

Do you consider yourself spiritual, but still curious about prayer? There are many ways to use prayer to engage in the spirit through a Jewish lens. There are prayers on the page and prayers of the heart. Can you use both to enhance your personal spirituality and enhance your Judaism? Can prayer bring us "b'yachad"—into community? Together we'll explore a variety of prayer expression, in formal and informal spaces, combined with some learning, perhaps a field trip, and concluding with some prayer-creation and prayer-leading. Come explore and create!

Comparative Religions Learning Group

Led by: Diane Baer & Corinne Fligner

Dates/Time/Locations: Sundays - January 12, March 22, and May 17 from 3- 6 pm, at the homes of Diane Baer (Wallingford) or Corinne Fligner (Montlake) plus field trips to houses of worship and post-trip discussions: Tentatively planned for February, April, and June, with specific dates and locations to be determined (carpooling planned).

The goal of this group is to increase our knowledge and experience of religions other than Judaism, focusing on theology, practice and traditions of selected religions (3 this year). For each of the selected religions, a discussion meeting with a religious leader will include some exploration of comparisons with Judaism. Paired with the meeting will be a "field trip" to the corresponding house of worship, where we will attend a service or participate in a tradition or practice of the religion, followed by a group conversation about the experience. Some background reading may be provided before the discussion session. Currently planned for 2020: Catholicism, Islam, and Sikhism.

Shoreline Shabbat Dinner Group

Led by: Nancy & Alan Marx

Dates/time: Nov 8, Dec 6, Jan 10, Feb 7, March 6, April 3, May 8, and June 5

Location: The first dinner will be at Alan and Nancy Marx's house in Shoreline, starting at 6:45 Friday November 8. We will negotiate starting times and determine who is hosting for additional Shabbat dinners.

Group make up: 8-15 adults

Come welcome Shabbat together with a potluck dinner, blessings, and friends. Alan and Nancy will have discussion starter questions, both Shabbat and general interest, to start the conversations and together we will determine how much Shabbat specific learning/discussion and how much just getting to know other Jewish adults in the Shoreline (and North) area.

B'Yachad Bocce

Led by: Marj Press

Dates/time: Sundays 4 to 6pm - November 24, January 12, February 2 & 9.

Location: Rhein Haus on Capitol Hill

Group make up: 8-16 adults

This group is going to learn all about and play bocce together! For the winter season we'll meet at the Rhein Haus on Capitol Hill – a court will be reserved in advance for our group and we may continue in the Spring outdoors at Woodland Park. We will get to know one another and enjoy this popular and historic sport. Please note that you are welcome to purchase snacks and drinks at the bar during our time together and we need an even number of people to sign up to play.

Introduction to Jewish Feminist Torah Study

Led by: Leah Vetter

Dates/Times coming soon

Location: Leah Vetter's house (Meadowbrook)

Group make up: 8-12 adults

Description coming soon

Shabbat Striders

Led by: Debbie Bermet

Dates/time: Dates are Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 7, April 4 (Note-changed because April 11 is Passover) and May 9.

Location: new neighborhoods each time

Group make up: 8-12 all ages

This group will meet for a nosh and then explore a different neighborhood each 2nd Saturday of the month. We'll walk at a moderate, conversational pace approximately 3-5 miles. Heavy rain will yield extra nosh time. Snow cancels. For folks of all ages and geographical locations so we can learn from each other.

Beth Am B'Yachad Group for Parents with Exceptional Kids

Led by: Moranne Aaron-Berel

Dates/time: Tuesday evenings 6:45 – 8:15pm - Jan 14, Feb 11, March 10, April 14, May 19 and June 2.

Location: Temple Beth Am classroom 114

Moranne Aaron-Berel, a member of Beth Am has an MA in clinical counseling and is a registered drama therapist and Jewish educator. She is a parent of and has been working with exceptional children for many years. This group is for parents to spend time together in a supportive Jewish space to talk about life with exceptional children. It is not a "support group" but an opportunity to be with other parents with shared experiences to reflect and be *b'yachad* together.