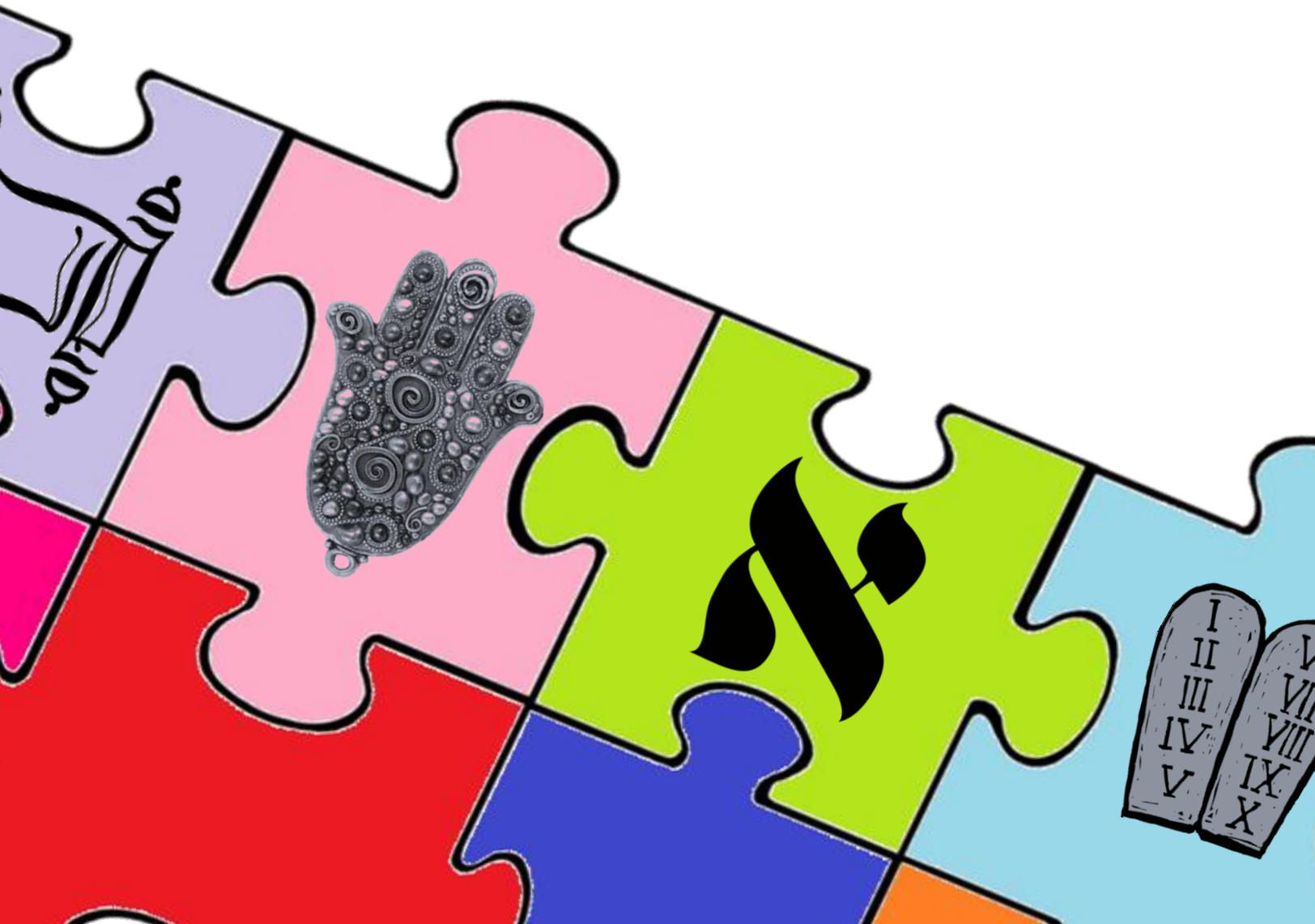




Adult Education 2017

Texts • Culture • Language • Faith



Introduction

Dear Members and Friends,

The ACT Jewish Community is proud to present 2017's Adult Education program. In 2016 we had the opportunity to learn from a variety of amazing scholars, including visiting professors, authors, journalists, and culminating with our Scholar in Residence, Eryn London.

This year, we have the opportunity to present a fantastic program that explores the full spectrum of Jewish life and learning. Throughout this document, you will find general information and explanations of each course on offer along with a timetable of all of our programs.

Each course will be marked with one or more of the following four symbols;

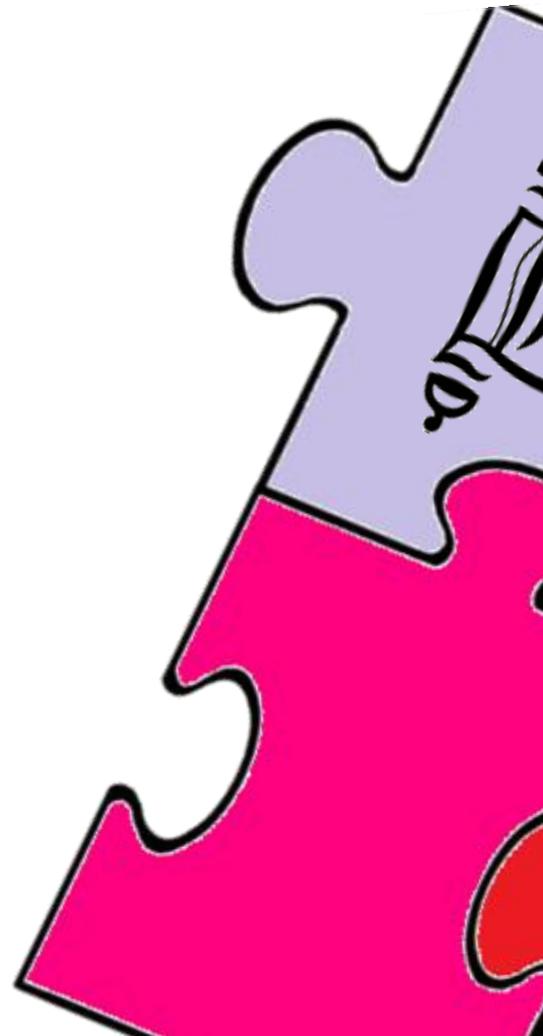
- Torah Scroll – This implies that there is a textual element to this course
- Chamtza – This implies there is a cultural element to the course
- Aleph – These courses will primarily be language based
- Ten Commandments – These courses will include Jewish Laws and Customs and will focus on the religious aspect of Judaism

As always, our programs are designed to broadly encompass different ideas, observances, and denominations.

Last year we had a record number of attendees, this year we would like to aim for 100% participation.

Please do join us,

Rabbi Alon Meltzer



Week at a Glance

Sunday

- Shabbat Cooking – 5 Sessions over the course of the year

Monday

- Jewish Journeys – Weekly (Semester 1)
- Midrash for Beginners – Weekly (Semester 2)

Tuesday

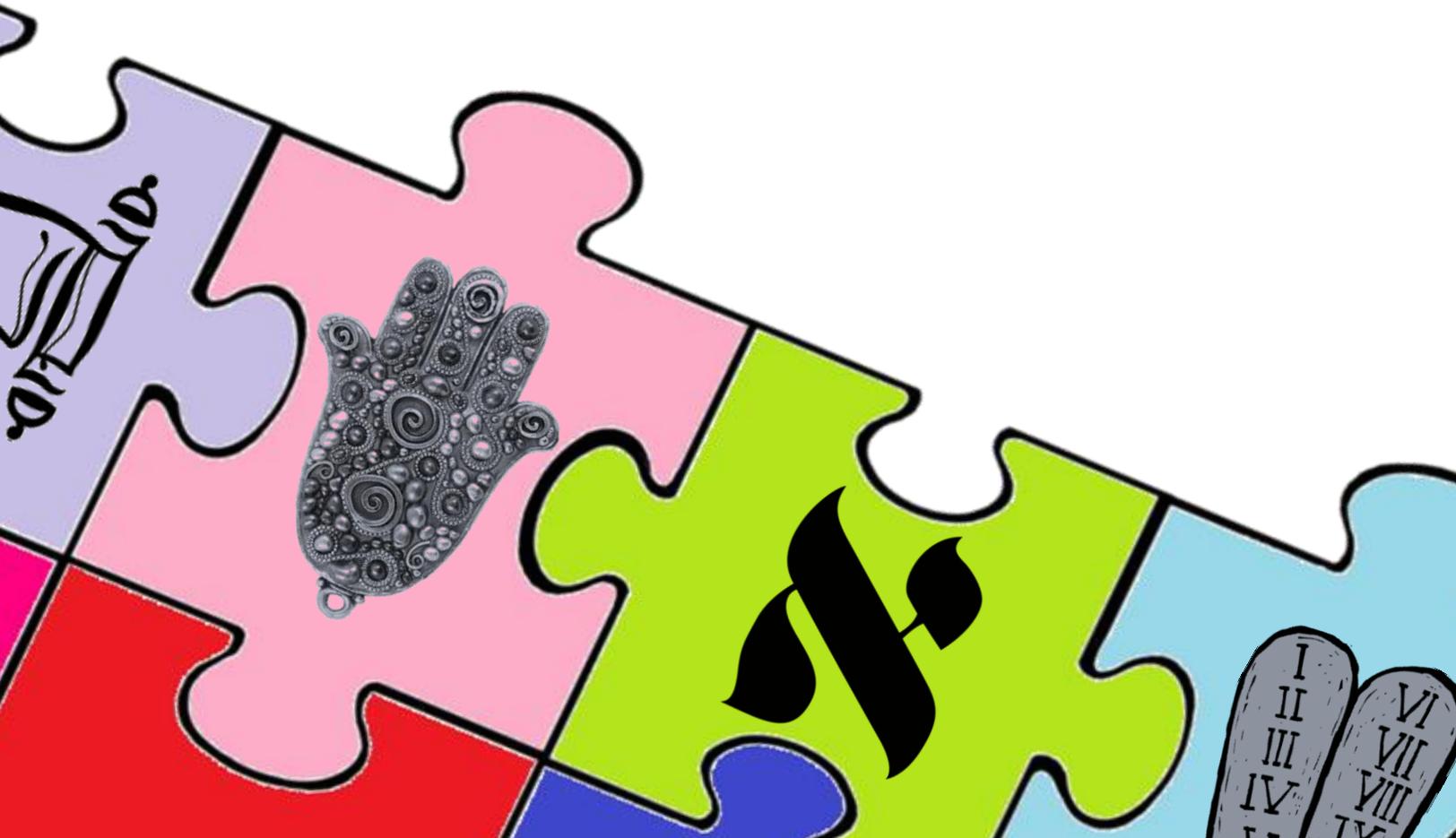
- Paint Night (with wine) – 5 Sessions over the course of the year

Wednesday

- Café Ivrit – Weekly

Thursday

- Jewish Philosophy – Weekly (Semester 1)
- Poems and Poets – Weekly (Semester 2)



Shabbat Cooking

Join Rabbi Meltzer for a practical cooking class that will explore different concepts and themes relating to Shabbat laws of the kitchen.

- Class One: Heating Liquids on Shabbos
- Class Two: Holy Guacamole
- Class Three: Utensils
- Class Four: Cooking on Yom Tov
- Class Five: Cleaning up

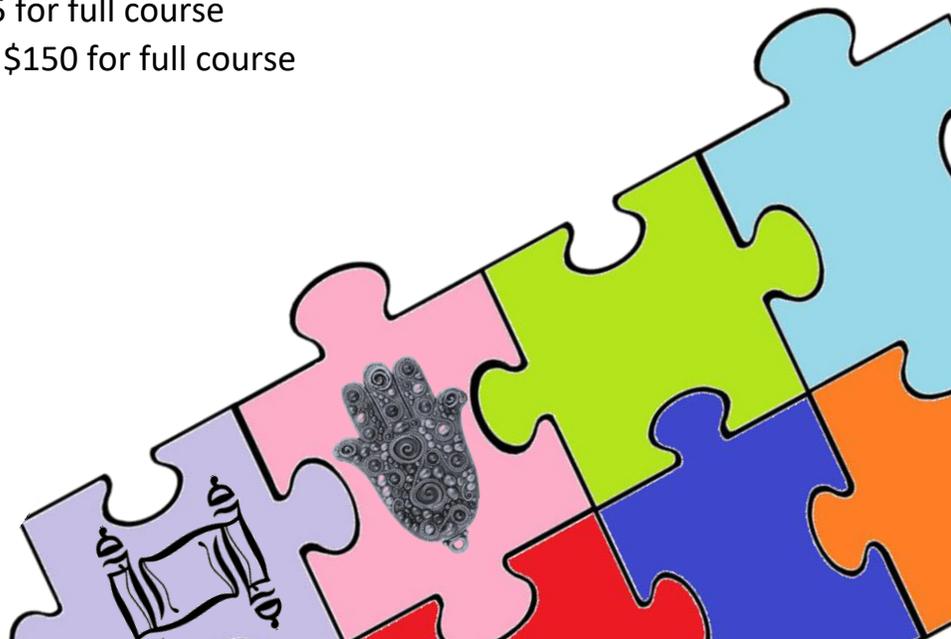
Themes: Cultural & Jewish Texts

Sundays at 10:00am

- February 5th
- March 5th
- April 30th – Special Class with Raz Sofer, called Cooking in their Memory in honour of Yom HaZikaron
- May 28th
- July 16th
- November 5th

Cost

- Members \$25 per class / \$125 for full course
- Non Members \$30 per class / \$150 for full course

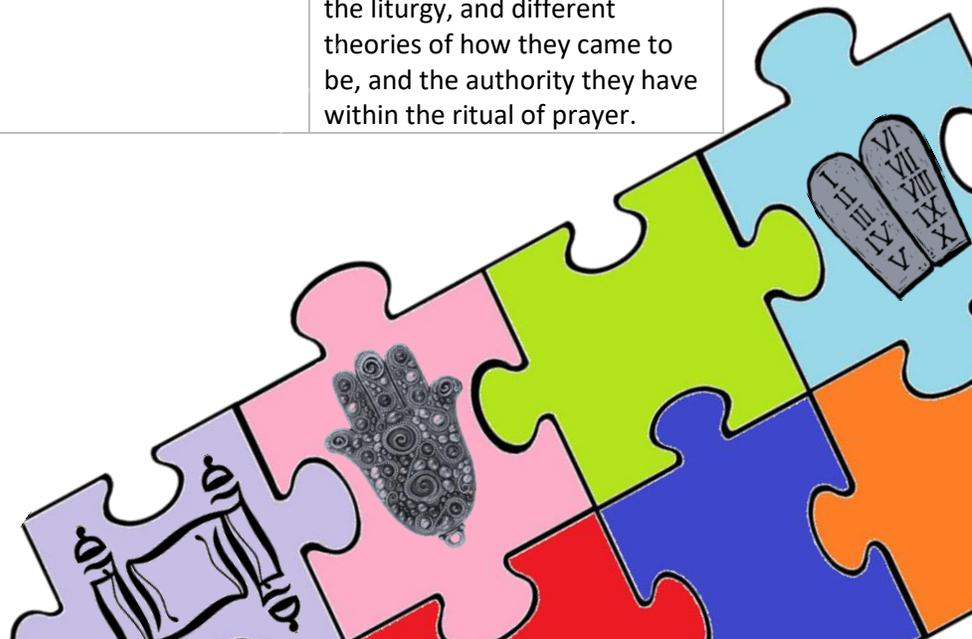


Jewish Journeys

Join us on Monday evenings as we complete the second part of Jewish Journeys. Four different topics over the course of 5 months. We will engage in discussions and open our minds to the smells, tastes, sights and sounds of Judaism in very practical terms. Please see our curriculum for details on specific classes and topics. This class will be stimulating and engaging, and is intended to those looking to build a foundation of Jewish knowledge.

One semester. Members pay cost of \$25 for books to be advised at the beginning of the semester & Non Members \$90 (covers materials and course books)

<p>February 6th</p>	<p>The Synagogue and Liturgy</p>	<p>The Origins of the Beit HaKnesset</p> <p>We will look at archaeological theories as to why a Synagogue looks like it does, and will explore the transformation from simple meeting house to house of prayer and worship.</p>
<p>February 13th</p>		<p>Symbols of the Synagogue</p> <p>We will explore some of the halachic considerations to building a synagogue, and some of the traditional symbols found in synagogues around the world.</p>
<p>February 20th</p>		<p>Litany of Liturgy</p> <p>We will look at the development of prayers within the liturgy, and different theories of how they came to be, and the authority they have within the ritual of prayer.</p>



February 27th		<p>Where To Next?</p> <p>Prayer is one of the hardest areas to connect to. We will explore some of the ways various figures and groups are trying to revolutionise prayer.</p>
March 6th	Philosophy	<p>Greek Philosophy</p> <p>We will explore how Greek philosophy was impacted by, and in turn impacts, Judaism. Looking at the bans on learning Greek Philosophy, and how it found its way into rabbinic literature.</p>
April 24th		<p>Ikkarim – Roots of Judaism</p> <p>Many philosophers espoused fundamental principles of Judaism. We will look at Maimonides, Joseph Albo, and the Ibn Ezra, who had various views on the non-negotiables of Judaism</p>
May 15th		<p>Rav Soloveitchik and Heschel</p> <p>We will explore how these two powerhouses of 20th century American Jewish Philosophy compared to one another.</p>
May 22nd		<p>Rav Kook: Planning the Establishment of the State of Israel</p> <p>We will look at how Rav Kook set up philosophical foundations for the State of Israel.</p>
May 29th	Literature	<p>Sholom Aleichem</p> <p>We will explore the folk tales of Shalom Aleichem and how they have impacted the Jewish childhood.</p>

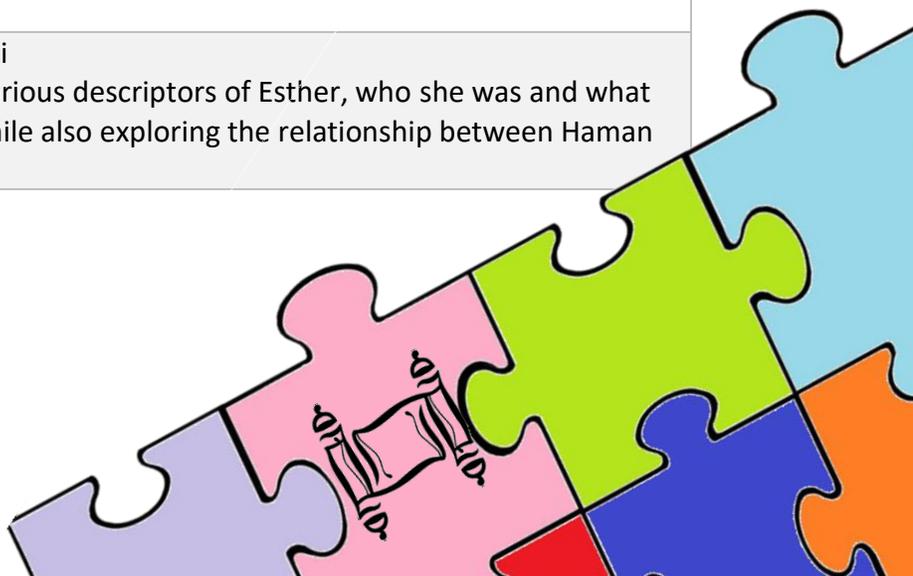
<p>June 19th</p>		<p>Famous Authors</p> <p>Exploring authors like Chaim Potok, Maurice Sendak, and Jodi Picoult, we will look at how Judaism, and Jewish thought has entered into their writing.</p>
<p>July 2nd</p>		<p>Shakespeare and Chaucer</p> <p>We will look at how the Jew is portrayed in these works, and how Jewish ideas, through various avenues, have infiltrated some of the masters of English literature.</p>

Midrash for Beginners

Join us on Monday evenings as we explore a number of biblical stories and the midrashim surrounding them. This course will be text based, but will explore how midrash has enhanced or transformed these stories, provided greater understanding or morals to the stories, and inspired art, music and culture.

One semester. Members pay cost of \$25 for books to be advised at the beginning of the semester & Non Members \$90 (covers materials and course books)

7th August	This class will introduce what a midrash is, and establish the timeline and various figures who wrote and compiled the midrash.
14th August	Adam and Eve – Environmentalism This class will explore the creation of the world, and the midrashim associated with environmentalism and the safeguarding of the world for future generations
21st August	Joseph’s Temptations This class will explore the time that Joseph spent in Potiphar’s house, and the seduction by Potiphar’s wife
28th August	Moshe – The hidden yid This class will look at midrashim surrounding the life of Moshe – was he a prince or was he a fake? Did he know his background or was he in the dark?
4th September	Pharaoh – The full story This session will look at who Pharaoh was and who midrash thinks he will become.
11th September	Sinai This class will explore the midrashim surrounding the giving of the Torah and how the concept of ‘loh b’shamayim hi’, that the Torah is no longer in heaven, is relevant to the story of the revelation at Sinai.
23rd October	Manna – Heavenly Food, Heavenly Taste This class will look at midrashic texts surrounding what the manna was and the way in which the Jewish people would collect this miraculous food.
30th October	Esther and Mordechai We will look at the various descriptors of Esther, who she was and what her motives were, while also exploring the relationship between Haman and Mordechai



6th November	<p>Elijah the Prophet</p> <p>This class will explore the various stories where Elijah the Prophet keeps turning up in the most interesting places.</p>
13th November	<p>Jonah – Why run?</p> <p>This session will look at the story of Jonah and how midrash describes his fleeing from God and subsequent reengagement with prophecy.</p>
20th November	<p>Resurrection</p> <p>We will explore the theme of resurrection and how this idea became a central motif within liturgy.</p>
27th November	<p>The Messiah</p> <p>He's not the messiah, he's just a very naughty boy, right? This class will look at who the messiah is, what he's going to be, and when he might come.</p>

Paint Night

Join Rabbi Meltzer at his home for five sessions of painting and creating through an exploration of Jewish stories and texts. Each class will focus on one area with a goal to complete a painting. All supplies will be provided including the wine to get the creative juices flowing.

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

February 14th

May 16th

August 8th

October 24th

November 14th

Cost

Members \$25 per class / \$100 for full course

Non Members \$30 per class / \$120 for full course



Café Ivrit

Modern Hebrew is spoken by about nine million people across the globe. From Israel to the Jewish communities world-wide - it remains a bridge connecting us all.

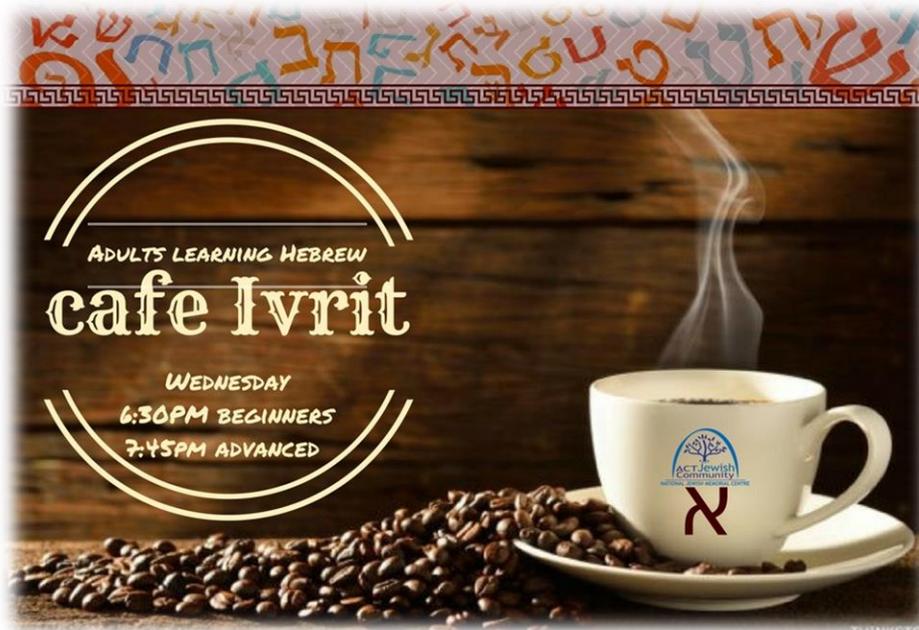
Raz Sofer and Rotem Dvir our Shlichim invite adults of all ages to join meetings of spoken Hebrew that will provide you with all the basics you need for your next Israel visit. Classes will be suitable for people who have no prior experience, as well as for those of intermediate and advanced levels of knowledge. Our Hebrew classes are ideal for adult learners looking to enjoy a practical and social experience while discovering the Hebrew language and culture.

Classes will be on Wednesdays, Beginners at 6:30PM and advanced at 7:45PM, at the Shlichim's apartment (10 Currie Cres, Kingston).

Participation fee for each block of 5 meetings: Member - \$50, Non-member - \$75

All study equipment and materials will be provided

Term One	15/2, 22/2, 1/3, 8/3, 22/3
Term Two	3/5, 10/5, 17/5, 24/5, 7/6, 14/6
Term Three	26/7, 2/8, 9/8, 16/8, 23/8, 30/8
Term Four	18/10, 25/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11



Jewish Philosophy

9th February	Maimonides's Moreh Nevuchim, The Guide to for the Perplexed
16th February	<p>The Guide for the Perplexed is the literary masterpiece of Moses Maimonides, who is considered the greatest Jewish thinker of all time. It compares the rationalism of Aristotle's philosophy from medieval scholars to Christian theologians in order to disclose the sublime mysteries of the divine.</p>
23rd February	
2nd March	
9th March	
9th March	Joseph Albo's Sefer Ha Ikkarim
6th April	<p>The theme of Albo's magnum opus, Sefer halkkarim ("Book of Principles"), is the investigation of the theory of Jewish religious dogmas. Maimonides, in a non-philosophical work, set the number of dogmas at 13, whereas Albo, following a doctrine that seems to go back to Averroes, limited the number to three: the existence of God, divine providence in reward and punishment, and the Torah as divine revelation. One section, usually including the philosophical and the traditional religious interpretations side by side, is devoted to each of these dogmas. Albo's principal and relatively novel contribution to the evolution of Jewish doctrine is the classification, in his introduction, of natural, conventional, and divine law.</p>
27th April	
18th May	
25th May	
25th May	Rav Soloveitchik's Kol Dodi Dofek
29th June	<p>On Yom ha-Atzma'ut, 1956, the RAV delivered a public address at Yeshiva University entitled: Kol Dodi Dofek; The Voice of My Beloved Knocks. The address, which has become a classic of religious Zionist philosophy, enumerates, and elaborates upon, the instances of God's tangible presence in the recent history of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. It also issues a clarion call to Diaspora Jewry to embrace the State of Israel and commit itself and its resources to its development.</p>
6th July	



Poems and Poets

10th August	Spanish Poets
17th August	Spain from the 10 th Century to the 12 th was a Golden Age of Jewish poetry. This unit will explore notable poets of this period including Semuel ibn Nagrella (993-1056), Salomón ibn Gabirol (1021-1055), Moses ibn Ezra (1055-1138), Yehudah Halevi (1074-1141), Yishaq ibn Gayyat (1038-1089), and Abraham ibn Ezra (1092-1167).
24st August	
31st August	
7th September	Ashkenaz Piutim
14th September	The most important region of Central European sacred poetry was Germany, where the piyyut developed impressively because of the activity of a number of great paytanim in the 10 th –11 th centuries, such as Moses Kalonymus, Meshullam b. Kalonymus (both of Italian extraction), Simeon b. Isaac, and Meir b. Isaac. In the succeeding centuries, shkenazi piyyut continued to develop, and a number of important composers made major contributions to the literature. This unit will explore the piyutim of the High Holy Days
19th October	
26th October	
2nd November	Poets of Tzfat
9th November	Safed rose to fame in the 16 th century as a center of Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism. After the expulsion of all the Jews from Spain in 1492, many prominent rabbis found their way to Safed, among them the Kabbalists Isaac Luria and Moshe Kordovero; Joseph Caro, the author of the Shulchan Aruch and Shlomo Halevi Alkabetz, composer of the Sabbath hymn "Lecha Dodi".
16th November	
	This unit will look at a number of kabbalistic poets and will explore the beautiful prose and verse some of our most famous liturgy.





THE ACT JEWISH COMMUNITY IS A MEMBER OF
THE JCA FAMILY OF ORGANISATIONS

