

ADULT BNAI MITZVAH PLANNER

KOL AMI

5780 / 2019-2020



1. MARK YOUR CALENDAR --

The following in-person sessions will be held at the UUCA. Unless the session is on Shabbat, you can also join us online via Zoom.

Zoom info: Click here: <https://zoom.us/j/4060188049> / or connect by phone: +1-669-900-6833, code 4060188049#)

Date	Topics	Prayer / Hebrew	Torah Trop
1.Sun. Aug. 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.	Formal kick-off.	Shma and V'Ahavta – practice and coaching. Aliyot blessings.	Etnachta/Sof pasuk
2. Wed. Sept. 4 –	Texts on Forgiveness	3 Line Shma Hebrew vowels drill	Mercha tipcha
3. Sun. Sept. 15 –	God, Round I: The Theology of the High Holidays		Mapach pashta
4. Oct. 5 after services, 12:30-1:30	Yom Kippur customs	Barchu, Aleinu Hatzi Kaddish	
5. Oct. 17	Sukkot Discussion; 3 Festivals	Torah service	Mercha tipcha munach etnachta Mercha tipcha munach sof pasuk
6. Oct. 27	Torahs -- How they're made Tanakh	Hagbah, glilah, practice 3 lines, Lecha / processional	Mapach pashta munach zakef katon You now know 70% of the trop in the Torah!
7. Nov. 10 –	Text and Commentaries: how to study Torah; exploration of Sefaria		Munach Revii

8. Nov. 24 –	Continued Text and commentaries; drash topics developed, themes for that Shabbat	Havruta by Bnai Mitzvah team	Zakef gadol; darga tvir,
9. Dec. 8 –	Jewish history: overview	Amidah	Kadma v'azlah
10. Dec. 22	Jewish history: key themes	Amidah	Hand out individual psukim for leynung; work in havruta
11. Jan. 5	Bible overview	Psukei d'Zimra	Leyning practice in havruta
12. Jan.19 or 26 –	Rabbinic writings: Halakhah and Codes	Psukei d'Zimra	Leyning practice in havruta
13. Feb. 2	Rabbinic Writings: Aggadah / Yoma	Amidah	Leyning practice in havruta
14. Feb. 9 or 12	Rabbinic Writings: Oven of Achnai	Amidah	Leyning practice in havruta
15. Feb. 26 –	Topics: TBD	Review of Morning Service	Leyning practice in havruta
16. Mar. 15 –	Topics: TBD	Review of Torah Service	
17. Mar. 29	God, Round 2		Leyning Marathon
18. April 5 –	Passover – Core messages; Haggadah; Customs	Hebrew Names	

Room Locations:

Sunday, September 15, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Saturday, October 5 (after services), Youth Room until 1:30

Thursday, October 17, 7:00-8:30 Double Classroom 13/15

Sunday, October 27, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, November 10, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, November 24, 2:00-3:30 Volunteer Room

Sunday, December 8, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, December 22, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, January 5, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, Jan. 26 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, Feb 2, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Wed Feb 12 7:00-8:30 Boardroom

Wednesday, Feb 26, 7:00-8:30 Volunteer Room

Sunday, March 15, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, March 29, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

Sunday, April 5, 3:00-5:00 Volunteer Room

2. HEBREW COACHING SESSIONS

These sessions will be held via Zoom. Go to zoom.us and download Zoom onto your computer, tablet, or cell phone.

Then click here: <https://zoom.us/j/4060188049> / or connect by phone:

+1-669-900-6833, code 4060188049#)

Thank you to our coaches: Jane Petkofsky, Joan Goldfarb, Amber Baum, and Richard Ruth.

Beginner sessions:

Intermediate sessions:

Schedule:

3. START READING!

In 18 sessions we can learn a lot, but it's still a drop in the bucket of Jewish civilization! Please commit to reading at least 3 books this year to supplement our class discussions. The order below is tied to our plan of study, but you need not read books in order. Naturally, this is a highly selective list – it leaves out vast areas of Jewish life. Some of these books are reference books and would make a fine addition to your library; others are books you can read through. Please “look inside” before purchasing, and consider sharing with other people in the class. I encourage you to add your own favorites to this list, and tell us why you liked a particular book

Jewish Life (broad)

Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs, and Values for Today's Families
By Anita Diamant and Howard Cooper

Living Judaism by Wayne Dosick (highly recommended as an overview book)

To Life! A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking
by Harold Kushner

The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism
By Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin

Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know about the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History, by Joseph Telushkin

It's a Mitzvah!: Step-By-Step to Jewish Living, by Bradley Shavit Artson.

Jewish with Feeling: A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Practice (For People of All Faiths, All Backgrounds) by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Joel Segel

Judaism's Ten Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers
by Dr. Arthur Green

Finding God: Ten Jewish Responses
By Sonsino, Rifat and Daniel B. Syme

Jewish Prayer:

Entering Jewish Prayer: A Guide to Personal Devotion and the Worship Service
by Reuven Hammer

Davening: A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Prayer
by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Jewish History:

A Short History of the Jewish People: From Legendary Times to Modern Statehood
by Raymond P. Scheindlin

A History of Judaism by Martin Goodman

American Judaism by Jonathan Sarna

America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today
by Pamela Nadell

Bible:

Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible
by Jonathan Sacks

How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now
by James L. Kugel

The God of Old: Inside the Lost World of the Bible, by James L. Kugel

The Jewish Study Bible, ed. by Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler

The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion by Rabbi Shai Held (2 volumes)

The Women's Torah Commentary: New Insights from Women Rabbis on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions, edited by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

Rabbinic Writings:

Joseph Skibell, *Six Memos from the Last Millennium*

Burt Visotsky, *Reading the Bible*

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings*

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman, *The Talmud of Relationships*

Jewish Food:

Alon Shaya, *Shaya: An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel*

Michael Wex, *Rhapsody in Schmaltz: Yiddish Food and Why We Can't Stop Eating It*

Jewish Calendar:

The Family Treasury of Jewish Holidays by Malka Drucker

The Sabbath by Abraham Joshua Heschel

Arthur Waskow, *Seasons of Our Joy*

Michael Strassfeld, *The Jewish Calendar*

Suggested by Cameron Vanore - *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*, by Abigail Pogrebin

4.CHOOSE YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE!

There are three dates set aside in the spring for our Adult Bnai Mitzvah class. We would like 3-5 people to sign up for each date, forming a Bnai Mitzvah Team. Some of you may already have date preferences, some of you may have preferences based on the Torah reading or special calendar day (Shavuot, Rosh Hodesh). **Please sign your name and ranked preference for each date (1 = top choice, 3 = least preferred).** We will try to give everyone their top choice, of course.

April 25 -- Rosh Hodesh Iyar; Torah Portion: Tazria Metzora (Leviticus 12:1-15:33)

This is no one's favorite Torah portion, dealing as it does with skin diseases and what might be considered mold in garments and buildings. But there are hidden treasures, especially if you are interested in public health! In the Torah portion Tazria, God instructs Moses about the purification rituals for mothers following childbirth. God then describes to Moses and Aaron the procedures for identifying and responding to those infected with leprosy. In Metzora, God describes the purification ritual for people and homes afflicted with skin diseases; God also instructs Moses and Aaron regarding the laws of the emission of bodily fluids. (My Jewish Learning.com)

This is also the beginning of the new month of Iyar. We will be incorporating some of Hallel, the set of psalms of praise, into our service in honor of Rosh Hodesh.

This will be my Bar/Bat Mitzvah Day: (please fill in)

Jane Schulman
Susan Freiband
Jason Weiss
Betsy Greer

May 30, 2020 -- Shavuot (Torah Reading from Exodus 19 and 20); Yizkor

In observance of Shavuot, we read a special Torah reading: the giving of the Ten Commandments. In this dramatic reconnection with the Sinai experience, the entire congregation rises for the reading of the commandments. We will be incorporating some of Hallel, the set of psalms of praise, into our service in honor of the festival of Shavuot. We will also be including a Yizkor service – traditional on the festivals – to remember our loved ones.

This will be my Bar/Bat Mitzvah Day:

Jonathan Baumgarten (2)
Louise Lerner (2nd)

June 13, 2020 -- Torah Portion: B'Haalotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:16)

This is a very interesting Torah portion, although the summary makes it sound somewhat archaic. In this week's Torah reading, *Beha'alotecha*, G-d instructs Aaron concerning the Tabernacle Menorah lighting. The Levites are initiated into the Tabernacle service. The "Second Passover" is instituted. At G-d's behest, Moses makes two trumpets, and is instructed how and when to use them. The Israelites leave Mount Sinai, and proceed towards the Land of Canaan. The people unreasonably complain about their "frugal" manna diet and receive a meat supplement, albeit with tragic results. Moses appoints seventy elders to assist him in bearing the burden of the people. Miriam speaks negatively about Moses and is punished with *tzara'at* (a skin disease). (Chabad.org) Themes of healing, jealousy, second chances, and light make this a rich Torah portion.

This will be my Bar/Bat Mitzvah Day:

Jonathan Baumgarten (1st choice)

Willa Siegel

Rayna Aylward

Louise Lerner

5. RESOURCES

LOTS OF OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE!! Feel free to pick any of the options below, or to find your own resources for learning Hebrew. Different styles appeal to different people. For our Zoom and in-class coaching sessions, beginners will be using the following: www.lshonhakodesh.torahaura.com. The online lessons are simply reprints of the book, which is available from Torah Aura Productions ("**LShon ha-Kodesh: A Beginning Hebrew Book for Adults**," by Debi M. Rowe).

There's no magic in any particular book -- it's just a matter of frequent practice. 10 minutes a day will make it happen!!

HEBREW RESOURCES

1. If you're starting out with the aleph bet, here's an online Hebrew reading program which is free for one month:

<https://www.learnhebrewpod.com/reading-hebrew/basic-reading-course> I think you can learn the aleph bet in that time, but make sure to wait until you have enough time in a month to go through the 32 lessons.

Comments:

2. Textbook: From Behrman House: Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults, Book 1.

<https://store.behrmanhouse.com/index.php/aleph-isn-t-tough-an-introduction-to-hebrew-for-adults-book-1.html>

3. If you already know the alphabet and vowels and are sounding out syllables, try this program. You get 5 free trials, and then the purchase price is \$30.

<http://www.levsoftware.com/prayers.htm>

4. If you are reasonably comfortable reading whole words, Behrman House offers prayer practice. They provide the audio and simultaneously highlight each word of the prayer, including Reconstructionist versions of the prayers.

<http://www.behrmanhouse.com/kiddush-reconstructionist-version>

5. Suggested by Cameron Vanore:

1. Learn to Read Hebrew in 6 Weeks, by Miiko Shaffier. This teaches you to identify the letters and letter sounds, vowel sounds, etc. and provides practice words to sound out with each lesson. It's written in a very simple style with cartoon drawings to help you remember each letter (I like this, but other people might think it's silly). It only has two lessons per week, so you could actually finish it in a lot less than 6 weeks. Obviously, this book only covers the basics.
2. These Hebrew flashcards from Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B013ZDB9DU/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1
3. This laminated Hebrew chart. It's a booklet of four pages, and contains more info than I will probably ever be able to learn, but the simplest parts of it are very useful:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/031026295X/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1
6. Erin's Recommendation: Shalom Aleichem by Noah Golinkin. It only teaches decoding (not meaning), but I think it's a good book for that purpose.

TROP RESOURCES:

<http://learntrope.com/>

HOW TO ACCESS GOOGLE DOCS WITHOUT A GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Try this:

1. Type in your browser: <https://www.google.com/> which should bring you to Google home page.
2. In the top right hand corner of the page, click on Sign In.
3. When you see the sign-in box, at the bottom it should say "Create account." Click on that.
4. Enter your name and the email address you like to use. (Even though it shows @gmail, don't worry about that, it will disappear when you put in your own email address.)
5. Put in any password you wish -- do not enter your regular password, say, for yahoo or hotmail; you're not giving Google access to your email!
6. Hit Next. That should be it, except for one last step -- go to your email, open up Google's request for verification, and verify that it's really you at that email address.