

Congregation Agudas Achim

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

5780



We warmly welcome attendance by anyone interested in advancing their Jewish education, regardless of CAA membership.

Program fees are waived for Kol HaKavod and Sustaining Members.

Upon registration, those without a campus parking sticker will be provided with a pass to facilitate entry onto the Dell Jewish Community Campus.

CAA seeks to provide an inclusive, accessible, and affirming community for all learners. If you need accommodations to participate in our programs, please inquire.

For more details, call Teresa Lavender at 512-735-8420, or visit www.theaustinsynagogue.org/adult-education

Sundays

Bible Times: What Happens in Jewish Scripture?

Today we take it for granted that historical events can be sequenced across a timeline using numbered years. During the period when the Tanach was written, no such framework existed and Israelite chroniclers had to use quite different strategies for maintaining a record of their nation's political and spiritual history. In this class, we will look at the ways those strategies are employed in scripture. We will also review attempts to establish a correlation between Biblical events and historical developments (often easier to date) in other ancient cultures.

Instructor: Mark Long

Time: Sundays, 9:30–11:00am

Dates: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/8, 12/15

Location: CAA History Room

Fee: No charge. Optional donation appreciated.

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class

If you didn't have the opportunity to celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as a child, or your Jewish journey began after age 13, perhaps you've decided that now is the time. The Adult B'nai Mitzvah class begins in November, with an expected completion in Spring 2021. *Those new to Hebrew are encouraged to take CAA's Hebrew Reading Crash Course or seek outside tutoring support in Hebrew.*

Instructor: Matthew Levitt

Time: Sundays, 9:30–11:00am

Date: Class begins November 3

Location: CAA Social Hall A

Investment: \$360 + cost of 2 books (paid in installments if needed)

For more info, contact matthew.levitt@park.edu.

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Decoding the Siddur 101 – Crash Course

Ever get lost in the flow of a service? Want to better understand the choreography - why we sit, stand, and bend when we do? Want to be able to figure out what prayer we're on and what we're singing? Learn why certain prayers were chosen for our services? The goal of this workshop-style course is to help you get more meaning from your prayer experience.

Instructor: Davida Charney, PhD

Time: Sundays, 9:30–10:45am

Dates: 11/10 and 11/17

Location: CAA Small Conference Room

Fee: No charge. Donations appreciated to cover noshes. To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Hebrew Reading Crash Course – Level I

This introductory course is designed for those with little or no background in Hebrew and concentrates on the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills. This class, developed by the National Jewish Outreach Program, can help participants to learn to read Hebrew in as few as five 1.5-hour weekly sessions. *Recommended for Adult B'nai Mitzvah students new to Hebrew.*

Instructor: Davida Charney, PhD

Time: Sundays, 11:00am–12:30pm

Dates: 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/8, 12/15

Location: CAA Small Conference Room

Fee: No charge. Donations appreciated to cover noshes. To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

(Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level II offered in the spring.)

Talmud Study, Beit Midrash Style

The Beit Midrash Talmud Study provides a unique opportunity to engage in deep conversation and grow in Torah learning. Beit Midrash utilizes learning partners (chevruta) to study our ancient texts, where participants are both students and teachers. Each session stands alone, and learners of all levels are welcome. Facilitated by Dr. Harvey Raben, CAA Director Emeritus of Congregational Learning, and Nyla Harper.

Instructors: Various

Time: Sundays, 11:00am–12:30pm

Dates: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/8 **Location:** CAA Social Hall A

Fee: No charge. Donations for noshes appreciated.

For more info or to register, contact harvey.raben@gmail.com.

Tuesdays

Chag in the Home

Chag in the Home is a series of monthly classes geared toward parents of children ages 3–10. Classes focus on child-friendly ways to invigorate Jewish holiday observance, including easy crafts, activities, conversation topics, and stories. Light refreshments often provided.

Instructor(s): Led by a member of the CAA Young Families Community, with cameos by our Rabbis.

Time: Tuesdays, 11:00am–12:00pm

Dates: 3rd or 4th Tuesday, (check CAA calendar for dates)
Begins September 17

Location: CAA Education Building, Room 147

Fee: No charge. Donations for refreshments appreciated.

For more info or to register, contact Jennifer.rubin@caa-austin.org.

Talmud on Tuesdays: Berachot (Blessings)

All are welcome to explore key concepts of this opening book of the Talmud. Each week we will look at selections from the Babylonian Talmud. Each class stands alone, so feel free to attend as your schedule allows.

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Blumofe

Time: Tuesdays, 12:00–1:00pm, check CAA calendar for dates

Location: CAA History Room

Fee: No charge. Optional donations appreciated.

For more info, contact jane.weiss@caa-austin.org.

Downtown Study Group

Come and join a thriving monthly discussion. King David is an enigmatic and complex figure in the Hebrew Bible. With the help of thought leader Rabbi David Wolpe's text, *David: The Divided Heart*, and the *Book of Samuel*, we will explore David's development in a historical and moral context. All are welcome. Bring your lunch!

Facilitator: Dr. Harvey Raben, CAA Director Emeritus of Congregational Learning

Time: Tuesdays (one Wednesday), 12:00–1:00pm

Dates: Wednesday 10/23; Tuesdays 11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/24, 4/21, 5/19

Location: Austin History Center,
810 Guadalupe Street Austin, 78701

Fee: No charge. Optional donations appreciated.

For more info or to RSVP, contact harvey.raben@gmail.com.

Parenting as a Spiritual Practice

Looking to connect with other parents? Join Rabbi Swedroe as we explore the spirituality of parenting with Jewish texts, conversation, and journaling. This year, we'll be reading from Wendy Mogel's book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Timeless Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children*. Feel free to bring your lunch. Babysitting available for \$10 at Shalom Austin.

Instructor: Rabbi Gail Swedroe

Time: 2nd Tuesdays, 11:00am–12:00pm

Dates: 9/10, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12

Location: CAA Education Building, Room 147

Fee: No charge. Optional donation appreciated.

Modern Hebrew – Intermediate/Bet Level

Take a break from your routine and immerse in Hebrew learning! The class will include level-based conversation, reading and writing practice, and exposure to Hebrew slang and Israeli culture. This fun, engaging class will also incorporate contemporary media, such as podcasts, video, music, and modern texts.

Intermediate/Bet-level students will expand Hebrew vocabulary, reading, writing, and conversation skills. Content includes reading of stories and practice with dialogue.

Instructor: Sharon de Koning Kessel

Time: Tuesdays, 6:30–8:00pm

Dates: 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

Location: CAA History Room

Investment: \$72, including books and materials

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Wednesdays

Modern Hebrew – Beginner/Aleph Level

Take a break from your routine and immerse in Hebrew learning! The class will include level-based conversation, reading and writing practice, and exposure to Hebrew slang and Israeli culture. This fun, engaging class will also incorporate contemporary media, such as podcasts, video, music, and modern texts.

Aleph-level class will cover the aleph bet and then begin to build Hebrew vocabulary, basic conversation, and beginning reading and writing skills.

Instructor: Sharon de Koning Kessel

Time: Wednesdays, 5:00–6:00pm

Dates: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Location: CAA History Room

Investment: \$72, including books and materials

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Living Judaism: A Guide to Jewish Awareness and Practice

Join Rabbi Blumofe for this dynamic class, which will introduce or refresh many areas of Judaism and Jewish life, including history, holidays, life-cycle events, philosophy, theology, and Israel. This class is for anyone who wishes to learn more about Judaism, including those who are Jewish and those who are not.

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Blumofe

Time: Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00pm

(following minyan at 6:00pm)

Dates: September 4 – April 22 (no class: 9/25, 10/9, 10/16, 11/27, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 3/18, 3/25, 4/8, 4/15)

Location: CAA Social Hall

Investment: \$150 (\$200/couple) + books

For more info or to register, please contact Jane Weiss at 512-735-8404 or jane.weiss@caa-austin.org.

Thursdays

Mahjong for Beginners

All skill levels are welcome! Each player will need to have a current card. If you have a Mahj set, bring it. If not, don't worry!

Instructors: CAA Sisterhood Members

Time: Thursdays, 6:30–8:30pm

Dates: 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12, 12/26, 1/9, 1/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/14, 5/28

Location: CAA Social Hall

For more info or to register, contact Ellen Singer elleville00@gmail.com

Fridays

Friday Morning Learning

Following Shachrit minyan, please join us for study of the *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch—Blessings*.

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Blumofe

Time: Fridays, 7:40–8:30am, following minyan

Location: CAA Chapel

Fee: No charge. Donations requested to cover food costs.

Modern Hebrew – Advanced/Gimel Level

Take a break from your routine and immerse in Hebrew learning! The class will include level-based conversation, reading and writing practice, and exposure to Hebrew slang and Israeli culture. This fun, engaging class will also incorporate contemporary media, such as podcasts, video, music, and modern texts.

Advanced/Gimel-level students will use contemporary Israeli poetry and literature to deepen Hebrew language skills, in addition to expanding skills in reading, writing, and conversation.

Instructor: Sharon de Koning Kessel

Time: Fridays, 12:00–1:30pm (Bring your kosher lunch!)

Dates: 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 12/6, 12/12/13

Location: CAA History Room

Investment: \$72, including books and materials

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org

Saturdays/Shabbat

Shabbat Limud: Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Shabbat mornings, learners gather in the CAA Chapel to study Torah, verse by verse, with Rashi commentary and lots of discussion. Led by Rabbi Blumofe. All are welcome!

Deep Dive into Prayer: Interested learners are led through a deep exploration of prayer within the Shabbat morning service. All are welcome!

Facilitators: Rabbi Gail Swedroe and Yaira Robinson

Time: Saturdays, 9:40am

Dates: 9/14, 11/9, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9

Location: CAA Chapel

Hebrew Through Torah

Are you able to sound out Hebrew words but wish you knew what you were saying? Join us for an informal, organic introduction to the Hebrew language using verses from the weekly Parsha and snippets of the siddur. We'll explore how words that look and sound very different are actually related. We'll build upon the knowledge of Hebrew that you already have! Expect the study leader to make interesting connections between Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, English, and Spanish. Class will be conducted in a Shomer Shabbos fashion.

Prep for the Hebrew Through Torah Class

This four-week prep is recommended for those who haven't yet mastered the Hebrew alphabet. We'll cover letters, vowels, and basic words.

Instructor: Gail Tosto

Time: Saturdays, 1:15–2:15pm

Prep Class Dates: 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19

Hebrew Through Torah begins October 26

Location: CAA History Room

Fee: No charge. Optional donations appreciated outside of Shabbat.

For more info, contact gailtosto@gmail.com.

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Coming Soon

Hebrew/English Coffee & Conversation

Those with emerging fluency in Hebrew or English are invited to join together in conversation at a local coffee shop. This program is offered in collaboration with the Israeli–American Council (IAC), Austin Chapter.

Facilitator: TBD

Date/Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Fee: No charge. Items available for optional purchase.

For more info, contact Davida Charney at dcharney@austin.utexas.edu

To register, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org

CAA SOCIAL ACTION/ SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Led by Rabbis Blumofe and Swedroe, each monthly learning experience will highlight what our tradition has to say about important social issues. All are welcome to join in an engaged, thought-provoking discussion.

Tuesday, October 29, 12:00–1:15pm:

Affordable Housing w/Rabbi Swedroe

Erev Shabbat, November 29, 7:30–8:45pm:

Food Insecurity w/Rabbis Blumofe and Swedroe

Shabbat, December 28, 1:30–2:45pm:

Access to Education w/Rabbis Blumofe and Swedroe

Location: CAA, Room TBD

Fee: No charge. Optional donations appreciated outside of Shabbat.

For more info, contact Teresa.lavender@caa-austin.org.

Bikkur Cholim - Visiting the Sick

Bikkur Cholim is not only a nice thing to do, but also a sacred obligation. To learn more about this mitzvah and how we endeavor to strengthen these efforts within our community, please keep an eye out for learning sessions this winter, led by Rabbi Swedroe and Danielle Kaplan, LCSW.

GET READY FOR SPEAKER SERIES 5780

Ken Jacobson, Deputy Director of the
Anti-Defamation League
Modern Antisemitism and How to Speak to our
Children

Join CAA and the ADL for a community-wide breakfast
Thursday morning, December 12, 2019
donation-based event
further details forthcoming

Stay tuned for additional Speaker Series events to
be announced.

CLASS

Sunday

Tuesday

9:00 A

9:30 A

10:00 A

10:30 A

11:00 A

11:30 A

12:00 P

12:30 P

1:00 P

5:00 P

6:00 P

7:00 P

8:00 P

Bible Times
(Long)

Adult Bnai
Mitzvah
(Levitt)

Decoding
Siddur
(Charney)

Beit Midrash
Talmud

Hebrew
Crash Course I
(Charney)

Chag in
the Home
(Rubin)

Parenting
as a
Spiritual
Practice
(Swedroe)

Talmud on
Tuesday
(Blumofe)

Downtown
Study
(Raben)

Modern Hebrew
Bet
(Kessel)

SCHEDULE

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Shabbat

Shabbat
Limud

Deep Dive
Into Prayer

Modern
Hebrew
Gimel

(Kessel)

Hebrew
Through
Torah
(Tosto)

Modern
Hebrew Aleph
(Kessel)

Living
Judaism
(Blumofe)

Mah Jong
(Sisterhood)

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