

JEWISH LITERACY – JEWISH COMMUNITY OF OJAI
THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF VENTURA COUNTY
ALL CLASSES FROM 7- 8:30PM
SYLLABUS
5778 – 2017-2018
[as of 8/30/17]

Introductory Sessions

- 9/6/17 A Taste of Judaism – God (Jewish Views of God, Spirituality, etc.)
9/13 A Taste of Judaism – Torah (Jewish Sacred Texts, Jewish Way of Life)
9/27 A Taste of Judaism – Israel (The Land, People and Modern State)

Sacred Time

- 10/4 The Hebrew Calendar, Cycle of Holidays & Shabbat
10/11 The High Holy Days
10/18 Chanukah, Purim Pesach, Shavuot & Sukkot

Sacred Literature

- 10/25 Bible
11/1 The Mishna & Talmud
11/8 Midrash, Halacha, Jewish Legal Codes and Issues
11/15 Jewish Mysticism: Kabbalah and Zohar
11/29 The Prayerbook

Jewish History

- 12/6 All of Jewish History in 90 Minutes
12/13 Judaism and Christianity – the Parting of the Ways
12/20 The 20th Century (Zionism, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust)

Living a Jewish Life

- 1/10/18 Temple & Synagogue: Home and Kashrut
1/17 Life Cycle: Brit Milah, B’nai Mitzvah, Marriage (& Inter-Marriage),
Divorce, Funerals
1/24 Jewish Community: Conversion, Movements, Synagogue Life, etc.
1/31 What Does Judaism Say About Sexuality and ??? (Students select topics)

**The Jewish Community of Ojai &
The Jewish Federation of Ventura County
A Taste of Judaism & Jewish Literacy**

Over the course of the next year, we will have a wonderful opportunity to study with Rabbi Mike Lotker. Beginning in September, join us to be introduced to Judaism on an adult level. There are two phases to the class.

1. A Taste of Judaism: This is a 3 session overview of the entire subject for those just interested in such an overview or those not ready to make a commitment to the full 18 week program. There is no charge for this initial component. Classes will be held at the Jewish Community of Ojai (530 West El Roblar Ave. in Meiners Oaks CA on Wednesdays (Sept. 6, 13 & 27).

2. Jewish Literacy: Please come to the Temple every Wednesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 PM a different topic (see the other side for our syllabus). Over the course of some 15 additional sessions, we will touch on most of the areas of concern and interest to adult Jews, exploring mysticism, the holidays, sacred literature, history, spirituality, and living a full Jewish life.

This program is designed for several different kinds of students:

Just Interested: The Hebrew phrase describing study for its own sake is *L'shem shamayim*- for the sake of heaven. This is the sweetest study of all.

Conversion Candidates: If you or someone you know might be interested in conversion to Judaism (or just thinking about it – no commitments needed at this time), you should take the Jewish Literacy class.

A Little of This – A Little of That: You should feel free to drop in on the Literacy class when you see topics that particularly interest you. If you want to get copies of handouts, it would be helpful to let Rabbi Mike know that you will be attending.

TUITION: There is no cost for members of area synagogues. The suggested donation for Jewish Literacy course for non-members is \$150.00 plus the cost of any texts and materials. Couples pay only one registration fee. If you decide to “drop in” on classes, we suggest a donation of \$10.00 (for non-members) per session. If these fees are a barrier to anyone’s participation, they will be cheerfully waived.

TO REGISTER: This program is made possible by the Jewish Community of Ojai and the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. For more information or to reserve your seat, please e-mail the Temple at info@ojaitemple.org or call the Temple at (805) 646-4464.