

# Beit Midrash

At Temple Beth Shalom, learning is at the heart of congregational life for both adults and children. The Beit Midrash Adult Learning Program provides opportunities for every congregant to learn about areas of interest to them at times which are convenient for as many members as possible. Many of our Adult Education courses are also open to the community, Jewish and non-Jewish, through Sulam, a multi-denominational Jewish collaboration among synagogues and agencies which join together to enhance Jewish learning opportunities for adults in the Austin area. [www.shalomaustin.org/sulam](http://www.shalomaustin.org/sulam). Courses are taught by Rabbi Freedman as well as by a core group of subject matter experts trained in adult education.

A variety of courses are offered of varying lengths and at various times. Our Introduction to Judaism classes and Hebrew classes are offered on Sunday mornings while more general interest classes are held on Tuesday evenings. We also offer special classes and seminars to address areas of particular interest to our congregants. Finally, contemporary Torah Study occurs each Shabbat morning either independently or as part of our Shabbat Study Minyan.



## Beit Midrash *House of Learning*

Adult Education Program



**Spring 2009**

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[www.bethshalomaustin.org](http://www.bethshalomaustin.org)

## Spring Programs

### Living a Jewish Lifestyle

Judaism is more than a religion; it is a style of living. This course will explore how one might undertake living Jewishly outside of Shabbat and festival observance. Subjects will include observing kashrut, family purity, Jewish communal life and other Jewish influences in the home.

Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in Room 123

February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 29; April 5, 19

This course is offered under Sulam, a Jewish collaboration among synagogues and agencies to enhance Jewish adult learning opportunities in the Austin area. [www.shalomaustin.org/sulam](http://www.shalomaustin.org/sulam)



## Continuing Course

### Intermediate Adult Hebrew

This course allows students to progress through learning prayers recited during daily and Shabbat services with increasing levels of familiarity and comfort. Students also will acquire an expanded Hebrew vocabulary, both ritual and modern. The meaning and themes of the prayers are also explored.

Sunday Mornings (11:00-12:00 pm)

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## Specialized Jewish Studies Program

### Caring for Our Aging Parents

This series will examine four key areas of concern in regard to our aging parents and provide the basis for ongoing education and support within our congregation. The subject areas to be addressed are community resources for the aging and caregivers, selecting the right assisted living residence, psychological considerations of aging, and Jewish law in regard to caring for aging parents. Each session will include a guest speaker on that topic. We will also discuss the ways that our congregation can support those who are caring for their parents.

Tuesday nights 7:30

January 13, 27; February 10, 24

### Parenting a Jewish Child

This course will cover both the religious and psychological aspects of raising a Jewish child in today's society. There will be an emphasis on sharing our parental experiences in dealing with the challenges of raising a Jewish child today.

Sundays 11:00 a.m. – noon in the Community Hall  
February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 29

### Comparative Judaism

This four-part series will address the philosophies and principles which underlay the three major branches of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative and Reform) as well as other smaller movements. The objective of the course will be to reach a better understanding not only of the varying practices among the various branches of Judaism but also why that is so. The class will also focus on that which unites us as a community despite our differences.

Tuesday nights 7:30 – 9:00; room 224

March 24, 31; April 7, 21

This course is offered under Sulam, a Jewish collaboration among synagogues and agencies to enhance Jewish adult learning opportunities in the Austin area. [www.shalomaustin.org/sulam](http://www.shalomaustin.org/sulam)

### Torah Study

Regular Torah Study has always been a hallmark of Temple Beth Shalom. In our congregation, Torah study is an effort to find contemporary meaning in this most ancient of texts. Study is done in English and consists mostly of learning from one another through discussion of the text. On the first Shabbat of each month, Torah Study is combined with our Shabbat Study Minyan in which we explore the Shabbat morning service itself.

Shabbat Mornings (10:00-11:00 am)