

Judaism 101 at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Spring 2021 – with Maggid Elias Ramer – pictograf @ aol.com

Our textbook for the class is: *Judaism for dummies, 2nd Edition*, by Rabbi Ted Falconer and David Blatner. It's available in print, and here's a link to a free PDF: <https://www.pdfdrive.com/judaism-for-dummies-e165006647.html>

By the end of this class you will:

1. Have a good understanding of core Jewish customs and practices
2. Appreciate the multiplicity of Jewish views on nearly every topic
3. Feel empowered to dig into Jewish life at multiple points
4. Know a variety of Jewish learning resources to use
5. Have a deeper sense of where you are in your journey and where you may be headed

Class Schedule:

- 6/15** **Held in Community** – Introductions and Identities
 chapters 1 and 29
- 6/22** **Grounded in History:** A Conceptual Journey
 chapters 11 through 15
- 6/29** **Anchored in Texts:** Foundational Stories
 chapters 3 and 5
- 7/6** **Touched by the Divine:** God and Daily Practice
 chapters 2 and 4
- 7/13** **Aligned with the Sacred:** Shabbat & the High Holy Days
 chapters 18, 19, 20
- 7/20** **Dancing through Time:** The rest of the holidays
 chapters 21 through 27

- 7/27** **Shaped by the Seasons:** Life Cycle events
chapters 7 through 10
- 8/3** **Marked by Our Actions:** Ethics, Mitzvot, Social Justice
chapter 6
- 8/10** **Challenged by Questions:** Tribalism, Inclusion, and Israel
- 8/17** **Nourished by Our Tradition:** Culture/s, customs, cooking,
creativity, and you!
chapters 16 and 17 – and the questions you bring to class

Some useful Jewish websites:

My Jewish Learning: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com>

Jewish Virtual Library: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>

Reform Judaism: <https://reformjudaism.org>

18 Doors: for interfaith families and couples – <https://18doors.org>

Jew Belong: for when/if you feel you don't – <https://www.jewbelong.com/>

Bim Bam: for Jewish learners –
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAYQOwOpViCsUL7sKiCg9gg>

Keshet: for LGBTQ equality in Jewish life – <https://www.keshetonline.org/>

Be'chol Lashon: for Jewish diversity – <https://globaljews.org/>

Ritualwell: for traditional and innovative Jewish rituals –
<https://www.ritualwell.org/>

Some useful books:

Judaisms: A Twenty-First Century Introduction to Jews and Jewish Identities by Aaron Hahn Tapper – note the *s* at the end of *Judaisms*

Essential Judaism: A Complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs & Rituals
by George Robinson

*Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper
Connection to Life – In Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)* by
Sarah Hurwitz

To Life: A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking by Harold S.
Kushner

*Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Customs, Traditions, and Values for
Today's Families* by Anita Diamant

*Choosing a Jewish Life: A Handbook for People Converting to
Judaism and for Their Family and Friends* by Anita Diamant

She Who Dwells Within: Feminist Vision of a Renewed Judaism, by
Lynn Gottlieb

The Receiving: Reclaiming Jewish Women's Wisdom by Rabbi Tirzah
Firestone

*The Hebrew Priestess: Ancient and New Visions of Jewish Women's
Spiritual Leadership* by Jill Hammer and Taya Shere

Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible edited by
Gregg Drinkwater, Joshua Lesser, and David Shneer

*A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the
First Century to 1969* edited by Noam Sienna