The class will be held on Tuesday evenings, from Oct 9, 2018, through May 14, 2019, and will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. The class also includes a Shabbat dinner and a tour and explanation of the mikvah. Each of the above rabbis will teach part of the course, and class sessions will be held at each teaching rabbi’s synagogue during his portion.

As the year progresses, we will offer a course in Hebrew Reading, which will be taught by Rachel Levitt. It will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, beginning Nov __, 2018. The fee for the Hebrew course is $125 per individual or $160 per couple; make checks payable to Adath Jeshurun Congregation. (Please contact your sponsoring rabbi if there is any concern about the cost of the course.) The class will teach phonetic Hebrew reading and home-based prayer skills (e.g., b’rakhot [blessings] for foods, Shabbat home rituals, reciting the Sh’mà, etc.), plus some frequently used modern Hebrew terms.

Every class participant must have a sponsoring rabbi who will meet with him/her initially. In addition to the class, participants who are interested in conversion to Judaism will meet with their sponsoring rabbi during the course of the year. The number of meetings and the final requirements for conversion will be determined by each sponsoring rabbi.

The success of this class depends upon honest communication, an exploration of Judaism shared by students and teachers. It is crucial that each member of the class feels free to express himself/herself frankly and honestly. At times, people’s questions and comments may be addressed in class. At other times, it will be more appropriate to discuss individual concerns in private meetings with one’s sponsoring rabbi. It is our hope that people will keep their sponsoring rabbi informed of their progress and will discuss with him any decisions regarding conversion or marriage.
Class Requirements:
- Regular attendance until the conclusion of the class in May 2018; Jewish partners of those considering conversion, are expected to attend as well.
- Completion of reading assignments for each class.
- Contribution of $50 per individual or $75 per couple for administrative costs. (This can be waived upon consultation with the sponsoring rabbi.) **Checks should be made out to the “Beit Din Masorti of Minnesota.”** There is a separate charge for the Hebrew Reading class (see above).
- Men are asked, and women are welcome, to wear a **kippah** in class.

Recommended Experiences Outside of Class:
- Series of Jewish experiences (e.g., Passover seder, Shabbat dinners, Chanukkah candles and rituals, visiting a **sukkah**, hearing the **M'gillah** on Purim, etc.).
- Development of a pattern of personal and communal Jewish observance and pursuit of a Jewish spiritual life.
- Regular attendance at synagogue services throughout the Twin Cities.
- Experience Shabbat and Holidays at synagogues (Let us know if you would like to be hosted or tickets for High Holidays services, if needed)
- Keep a journal of your Jewish experiences and feelings this year.
- Create a glossary of Jewish terms.

Requirements for Those Who Choose to Convert to Judaism:
- Accept the basic beliefs and principles of Judaism.
- **Kabbalat ’ol ha-mitzvot** (acceptance of the yoke of the commandments): demonstrate an integration of Jewish knowledge and practice (including, but not limited to, observance of **Shabbat** and **kashrut**)
- Be able to read Hebrew in original text.
- Integrate into a synagogue of your liking and the general Jewish community.
- Renounce previous religious commitment and set boundaries regarding non-Jewish religious celebrations.

Final Ritual Steps for Conversion to Judaism:
- Meet with **beit din** (rabbinical court) convened by sponsoring rabbi.
- **T’vilah** (ritual immersion) in a **mikvah**.
- **B’rit milah** (ritual circumcision) or **hatafat dam b’rit** (drawing a drop of blood) for men.
Readings for Introduction to Judaism:
- Bradley Artson, *It's a Mitzvah: Step-by-Step to Jewish Living*
- Elliott Dorf, *Conservative Judaism: Our Ancestors to Our Descendants*
- Samuel H. Dresner, *Keeping Kosher: A Diet for the Soul*
- Lawrence Hoffman, *The Way into Jewish Prayer*
- Martin Cohen, *The Observant Life*
- Michael Strassfeld, *A Book of Life*
- Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*
- Ron Wolfson, *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Comfort*
- Raymond P. Scheindlin, *A Short History of the Jewish People*
- Milton Steinberg, *Basic Judaism*
- Elie Spitz, *Does the Soul Survive?*

Requirements for Those Taking Introduction to Hebrew:
- Paul Michael Yedwab, *Learn Hebrew today: Alef-Bet for Adults*

Recommended Prayer Books, Torah Texts:
- *Siddur Sim Shalom* or *Siddur Lev Shalem* (Conservative prayer books)
- Reuven Hammer, *Entering Jewish Prayer*
- Reuven Hammer, *Ohr Hadash: A Commentary on Siddur Sim Shalom*
- JPS, *The Jewish Study Bible*
- *Etz Hayim* (The Torah with a Conservative commentary)
- *Maḥzor Lev Shalom* (Conservative High Holy Days prayer book)
- Rabbinical Assembly, *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*

Other Recommended Books:
- Anita Diamant, *The New Jewish Wedding Book*
- Arnie Eisen, *Conservative Judaism Today and Tomorrow*
- Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*
- Larry Hoffman, *My People Prayer Book*
- Harold Kushner, *To Life and When Bad Things Happen to Good People*
- Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Wisdom*
- Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Values*

Most of these books are available from Elijah's Cup in St. Louis Park, in synagogue libraries, some local libraries and online.

**Elijah's Cup**

4212 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
Phone 952.926.4433  
E-mail: toots140@juno.com

**Recommended Websites**

- An excellent website for more information about Judaism is [http://www.myjewishlearning.com/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/)
- The Rabbinical Assembly- the international organization of Conservative rabbis [http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/)
- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the intellectual center of the Conservative movement [http://www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu)
## Class Sessions (Tuesday evening 7:30-9pm)

### Classes at Beth El with Rabbi Davis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Rabbis</th>
<th>Oct. 9, 2018</th>
<th>Introductory Session: Personal Introduction, Course Description &amp; Expectations.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Davis</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Introduction to Synagogue</td>
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</table>
| Rabbi Davis | Oct. 23      | Shabbat 1<br>Reading: Strassfeld, *A Book of Life*, p. 103-138<br>* Introduction to Hebrew begins???
| Rabbi Davis | Oct. 30      | Shabbat 2<br>Reading: Cohen, *The Observant Life*, p. 98-102, 122-136            |
| Rabbi Davis | Nov. 6       | *T’filah* - The Art of Jewish Prayer 1<br>Reading: Hoffman, *The Way into Jewish Prayer*, Ch. 1, Ch. 2, p. 58-67, Ch. 5, p. 135-151 |
| Rabbi Davis | Nov. 13      | *Tefilah* - The Art of Jewish Prayer 2<br>Reading: Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, part 15 |
| Rabbi Davis | Nov. 20      | Kashrut 1<br>Reading: Artson, *It’s a Mitzvah*, p. 84-95<br>Strassfeld, *A Book of Life* p. 66-93 |
| Rabbi Davis | Nov. 27      | Kashrut 2                                                                      |
| Rabbi Davis | Dec. 4       | Chanukkah; Chanukkah Party; the December Dilemma<br>Reading: Strassfeld, *A Book of Life*, p. 284 |
### Classes at Sharei Chesed with Rabbi Ettedgui

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbi</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Davis</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Tanakh [Bible]</td>
<td>Reading: Telushkin, <em>Jewish Literacy</em>, p. 3-6, selections of Part I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi Davis</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Rabbinic Literature: Midrash, Mishnah, Talmud</td>
<td>Reading: Telushkin, <em>Jewish Literacy</em>, p. 114-161, 536-549</td>
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<td>Dec. 19-</td>
<td>December Break</td>
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<td>Jan. 1</td>
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<td>Rabbi Ettedgui</td>
<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Judaism in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>Reading: <em>Jewish Literacy</em>, Selections of Parts 3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Ettedgui</td>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Life Cycle 2 – Bar &amp; Bat Mitzvah</td>
<td>Reading: Salkin, <em>Putting God on the Guest List</em> (to be distributed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes at Adath Jeshurun Congregation with Rabbi Kravitz</td>
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</table>
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | Feb. 12  | Theology 1: Finding God- Sh’mah  
|                |          | Reading: Milton Steinberg, *Basic Judaism* pp. 42-46 (required)  
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | Feb. 19  | Theology 2: The Problem of Suffering  
|                |          | Reading: Steinberg, *Basic Judaism* p. 53-58 (required)  
|                |          | (Holocaust theology handout) |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | Feb. 26  | Theology 3: Afterlife  
|                |          | Reading: Elie Spitz, *Does the Soul Survive?* Chap 6 p. 49-55 |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | March 5  | Theology 4: Conservative Judaism  
|                |          | Reading: Dorff, *Conservative Judaism*, p. 9-26, 30-36, 96-100 required  
|                |          | Gillman, *WIEG*, p. 145-163; p. 127-144 (recommended) |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | March 12 | Judaism, Christianity, Islam  
|                |          | Reading: to be distributed |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | March 19 | Topics in Jewish Law  
|                |          | Women reading to be distributed  
|                |          | LGBTQ reading to be distributed  
|                |          | Purim |
|                |          | Purim Celebrated Eve of March 20-21 |
| Rabbi  Kravitz (substitute)  | March 26 | Holocaust,  
|                |          | Reading: Scheindlin, *A Short History*, p.199-215  
|                |          | (to be distributed) |
| Rabbi  Kravitz (substitute)  | April 2  | Israel  
|                |          | Reading: Scheindlin, *A Short History*, p. 216-233  
|                |          | ** Introduction to Hebrew concludes ?? |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | April 9  | Pesach  
|                |          | Strassfeld, *A Book of Life* p. 231-252 |
| Rabbi  Kravitz  | April 16 | The Enlightenment / American Jewry  
|                |          | Reading: Scheindlin, *A Short History*, p. 236-263  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Reading</th>
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</table>
| Rabbi Kravitz | April 19- April 27 | Pesach observed  
Confirm with sponsoring rabbi that you have a seder to attend.  
1st seder evening of Friday, April 19.  
2nd seder, evening of Saturday, April 20. |
| Rabbi Kravitz | April 23      | High Holy Days and Sukkot  
Reading: Strassfeld, *A Book of Life*, p. 260-283 |
| Rabbi Kravitz | April 30      | Shavu’ot  
Reading: Cohen, *The Observant Life*, p. 224-228;  
Strassfeld, *A Book of Life* p. 253-255  
The Book of Ruth |
| Rabbi Kravitz | May 7         | Minor Holidays  
Reading: Strassfeld, *A Book of Life*, p. 229, 256, 290 |
| Rabbi Kravitz | Thursday May 2 7: 00 pm | Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration  
(Please plan to stay after the service until about 8:45 to debrief) |
| Rabbi Kravitz | May 14  
6-7pm (Confirm) | 6-7pm St Paul Mikvah Tour 1955 Montreal, St Paul, MN, 55116  
What is involved in Conversion?  
|             | June 8- 10    | Shavuot Observed Eve of June 8- June 10  
Attend Tikkun Leyl Shavuot |