

Living the Jewish Way (LTJW)
Learning and Experiencing Judaism in a Synagogue Context
2011-2012



Instructors: Rabbi Dr. David Klatzker and Dr. Elie Levy

Living the Jewish Way is designed to introduce or reintroduce Judaism to adults who are attracted to the Jewish way of life and its unique values. Judaism offers a profound outlook on how to live a meaningful life and what it means to live in a community of common purpose and destiny. Many Jews rediscover Judaism in adulthood after ambivalent encounters with it in childhood. Many non-Jews, exposed to Judaism through Jewish partners and friends, are curious about Judaism's teachings that make it distinct from Christianity and general American culture.

LTJW is for

- a non-Jew considering conversion to Judaism.
- an intercultural couple (a Jew and a non-Jew) seeking to explore the role of Judaism in their relationship and household.
- a Jewish person seeking a more thoughtful and engaged relationship to Judaism and its way of life.
- a Jewish person who is considering synagogue membership for the first time.
- synagogue members who seek a renewal of their Jewish practice and knowledge.

LTJW is a program of adult Jewish learning that takes place in the supportive context of Temple Beth Shalom. Participants learn Jewish history, study the Jewish calendar and lifecycle, and discuss the distinct values and world view that make Judaism a unique approach to living a purposeful life.

The LTJW seminar meets one Sunday a month from 9am—11am beginning October 23, 2011, and running through June 2012 (schedule to be announced). In addition, LTJW students are expected to arrange individual tutorial sessions at least once a month with Rabbi Klatzker, who will offer support and guidance.

LTJW students are invited to stay for Rabbi Klatzker's weekly Sunday morning adult education classes from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. The first topic of the year will be "Holy Kugel: A History and Philosophy of Jewish Eating."

A beginning Hebrew class will be offered on Sunday afternoons at the Alpert JCC in Long Beach, for five weeks, starting October 23. We strongly encourage our students to enroll. There is no charge. A follow-up class will be offered at Temple Beth Shalom in January.

Individualized Hebrew learning may also be available. Check with Rabbi Klatzker.

Students who started the LTJW program in 2010-2011 will be given special readings and opportunities to deepen their learning from last year.

Celebration and Personalization of Learning: Participants may choose to enter one or more of the many doors of synagogue life such as Shabbat and festival services, special programs, social action activities, and special workshops and offerings as they progress in their studies. Rabbi Klatzker and Elie Levy can help each participant create a personalized path of Jewish learning and experiences within the synagogue and beyond. Former LTJW program participants will organize Shabbat dinners and special outings to experience Jewish culture, arts, and music.

Tuition (See Registration page): Tuition for LTJW is \$300 (single)/ \$500 (couple) for the entire year. A payment plan is available. Participants receive the member rates for all TBS events. Tuition does not include the cost of books or materials or food costs at events. Book costs may run around \$150 depending on if you purchase new or used copies. Additional learning material will be distributed at no cost.

Children and Families Interested in LTJW: We want to make it easy for families to participate in LTJW. Please speak to Rabbi Klatzker if you need special accommodations.

For more information about LTJW, contact Rabbi Klatzker at rabbi@tbslb.org or 562 426-6413.

LTJW Faculty

Rabbi David Klitzker serves as teacher, mentor and coach, helping each participant to explore the meaning and the practice of Judaism in his/her life. His mentoring is a key part of the program, helping each participant to find his or her unique Jewish spiritual path and place in Jewish community. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and a certificate in pastoral counseling, and directed conversion classes in Philadelphia and on Boston's North Shore.



Dr. Elie Levy, a member of Temple Beth Shalom for seventeen years, is a university professor, has a doctorate degree in clinical psychology, and enjoys teaching courses in the humanities, philosophy and psychology. Elie enjoys teaching comparative religion and in particular, teaching how the study and practice of Judaism can activate our desire for ultimate meaning and purpose in life.



Living the Jewish Way Class: 2011-2012 Syllabus and Schedule
Temple Beth Shalom, Rabbi David Klatzker and Dr. Elie Levy

LTJW Monthly Seminar: Sunday Mornings, 9:00-10:45 am, one or two Sundays per month.

Time Period and Class Session	Theme	Primary Texts	Additional Reading (recommended for more advanced students)
10/23/2011	A very short history of Judaism	A timeline and other materials will be distributed in class	Raymond Scheindlin, <u>A Short History of the Jewish People</u>
11/13/2011	Shabbat	Abraham Joshua Heschel, <u>The Sabbath</u> ; Noam Zion and Shawn Fields, <u>A Day Apart</u>	Judith Shulevitz, <u>The Sabbath World</u>
11/27/2011	Festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim, Pesah, Shavuot	Michael Strassfeld, <u>The Jewish Holidays</u>	Isaac Klein, <u>Guide to Conservative Jewish Practice</u>
12/11/2011	Prayer and Spirituality	Lawrence Hoffman, <u>The Way Into Jewish Prayer</u> ; Arthur Green, <u>These Are the Words</u> , especially sections I, III, IV	Aryeh Ben David, <u>The Godfile: 10 Approaches to Personalizing Prayer</u>
1/22/2012	Kashrut	Brad Artson, <u>It's a Mitzvah</u> , pp. 84-95; Blu Greenberg, <u>How to Run a Jewish</u>	Isaac Klein, <u>Guide to Conservative Jewish Practice</u>

		<u>Household</u> , ch. 2	
2/26/2012	Lifecycle: Birth Rituals, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Weddings, End of Life	Blu Greenberg, <u>How to Run a Jewish Household</u> , chs. 9, 10, 12, 14	Isaac Klein, <u>Guide to Conservative Jewish Practice</u>
3/18/2012	Torah Study	Essays to be distributed in class in advance	<u>The Jewish Study Bible</u> , pp. 1827-2097
4/22/2012	Theology (1)	Neil Gilman, <u>The Way into Encountering God</u>	Selections will be distributed from Neil Gilman, <u>The Death of Death</u> ; Lawrence Kushner, <u>Eyes Remade for Wonder</u> ; Eliot Dorff, <u>Conservative Judaism</u>
5/20/2012	Theology (2)	Harold Kushner, <u>When Bad Things Happen to Good People</u>	Richard Rubenstein, <u>After Auschwitz</u> , ch 2 (to be distributed)
6/10/2012	Zionism	Alan Dershowitz, <u>The Case for Israel</u>	Amos Oz, <u>Panther in the Basement</u>

LTJW A Personal Essay
A Snapshot of your Jewish Identity, Belief, and Observance

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Contact Info: _____

These questions are designed to elicit from you a personal statement that will help me to work with you during the coming year. Please keep your answers succinct but informative and do not exceed three pages. Please send a copy of your responses in with your completed membership application. You may send this electronically to rabbi@tbslb.org.

At the end of your LTJW period of study, I will ask you to address these questions again to explore how you have changed in your understanding of Judaism

1. Please describe the journey that led you to join the LTJW program. Describe your background including your parents' religious background and your secular and religious education.
2. Please describe to me your favorite Jewish ritual. What does this ritual convey to you about the essence of Judaism?
3. What are the beliefs and mitzvah-practices in Judaism that you find most appealing and persuasive? What beliefs and practices in Judaism do you find difficult?
4. What is your Shabbat like currently? What are the incentives and obstacles to making Shabbat a greater part of your life?
5. What is your web of Jewish relationships? Do any of your friends or family mentor you in Jewish life or discuss with you Jewish issues and concerns? If you are not Jewish, what influence does a Jewish partner or friends have on your spiritual or communal life?
6. Describe your experience with organized Jewish life such as synagogues or Jewish organizations. What is appealing about them? What is challenging about them?
7. Do you follow Israel or Jewish affairs in the news? What is your thought about the current situation of the Jewish people in the world?

Please return to Rabbi David Klatzker, Temple Beth Shalom, 3637 Elm Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807, Tel 562 426-6413, Fax 562 426-7824, rabbi@tbslb.org

Living the Jewish Way (LTJW) Registration

Tuition

LTJW is \$300 for individuals and \$500 for couples. Participants will receive member rates for all TBS events. Tuition does not include the cost of books. Book costs may run around \$150 depending on whether you purchase new or used copies. Additional learning materials will be distributed at no cost.

For TBS Members

The LTJW program is free to members in good standing of Temple Beth Shalom. Members must pay for books.

Date of Registration: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone (h): _____ (w): _____

Cell phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

TBS Member yes no. Please circle: Jewish Not Jewish

___ I am Jewish and want to reconnect to Jewish life.

___ I am Jewish and am interested in joining the congregation. Please contact me about membership.

___ I am studying to convert to Judaism

___ Other _____

Tuition Payment

_____ \$300 Single

_____ \$500 Couple

___ Full tuition enclosed.

___ Please bill me for three payments

Please return the personal essay with your registration

Please make an appointment with Rabbi Klutzker if you have not done so already.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send this registration and your tuition payment to: LTJW Temple Beth Shalom 3635 Elm Ave
Long Beach, CA 90807

Office 562 426-6413 Fax 562 426-7824

For questions, contact: Rabbi David Klutzker, rabbi@tbslb.org