

February 22

American Jewish History, Part I In July of 1654, a group of 22 Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived in New Amsterdam. Since that moment, Jews have had a hand in the shaping of this country. We'll discuss the stories of early American Jews and explore the ways in which Jews have left their mark on our nation's history.

March 8

American Jewish History, Part II Our overview of American Jewish History continues as we further unpack the contributions that Jews have made to building America. *You need not have attended the first session to appreciate this one.*

March 29

Jewish Genetic Diseases. Jews, particularly those of Ashkenazi descent, are genetically predisposed to a variety of illnesses and genetic disorders. We'll take a look at some of these illnesses, and inroads that have been made toward prevention and cures.

April 5

Do the Clothes Make the Jew? In the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform of Reform Judaism, the authors of the document stated, "We hold that all such Mosaic and rabbinical laws as regulate ... dress ... fail to impress the modern Jew with a spirit of priestly holiness; their observance in our days is apt rather to obstruct than to further modern spiritual elevation." How do we today view ritual wear such as *kippah*, *tallit*, and *tefillin*? Do they help us or hinder us in our spirituality?

April 12

Chad Gadya. How does a children's song about a goat help to teach the lessons of Passover? What are the hidden messages and metaphors of this and other *seder* songs?

April 26

Rabbi's Choice. An opportunity to return to previous topics in further detail as we close out this year of learning.

May 3

Final Day of Religious School. No Adult Education classes.

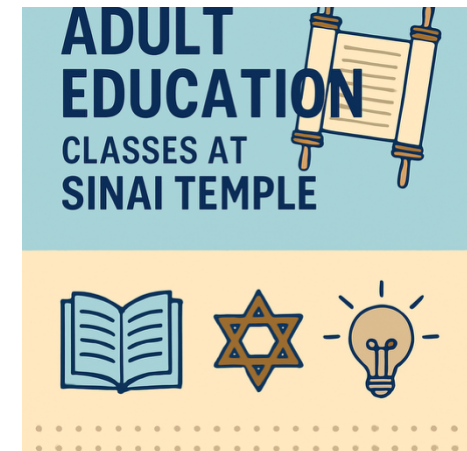
Join Us

Adult Education classes meet most weeks that Sinai Temple Religious School is in session. Enjoy a light nosh and join us for lively and insightful discussions.

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Adult Education 2025-2026



**Sundays,
10:15-11:15 AM**

Note: Topics and dates are subject to change.

September 21**Examining the High Holiday Liturgy, Part I.**

We'll explore some of the key features of the Rosh Hashanah *Machzor* and explore the origins and meanings of these prayers.

September 28**Examining the High Holiday Liturgy, Part II.**

We'll explore some of the key features of the Yom Kippur *Machzor* and explore the origins and meanings of these prayers. *You need not have attended the Rosh Hashanah session to appreciate this session.*

October 5

Conversion to Judaism. What does it mean to choose Judaism. What are the topics of study and the rituals involved in the conversion process?

October 12

The Five Megillot, Part I. Most of us are familiar with *Megilat Esther*, the scroll of Esther read during Purim. But there are four other Jewish texts that are also known as *megillot*. We'll begin by exploring the books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.

October 26

The Five Megillot, Part II. We continue our exploration of the *megillot* by exploring the books of Lamentations and Ruth. *You need not have attended the previous session to appreciate this session.*

November 2

The Five Megillot, Part III. We conclude our exploration of the *megillot* by discussing the Book of Esther and exploring common themes among the various scrolls. *You need not have attended the Rosh Hashanah session to appreciate this session.*

November 9

Topic TBD

November 16

Yiddish. As part of a weekend-long Yiddish festival in Champaign-Urbana, we will have a special class focusing on Yiddish. Watch for further details coming soon!

December 7

A Look at Israel and Zionism, Part I. In our final two sessions of 2025, Rabbi Alan will guide us in a brief overview of Zionism, the modern state of Israel, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and related topics.

December 14

A Look at Israel and Zionism, Part II. In our final two sessions of 2025, Rabbi Alan will guide us in a brief overview of Zionism, the modern state of Israel, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and related topics. *While there will be some connectivity between the two sessions, participants are welcome to attend this session even if they were unable to be at Part I.*

January 25

Topic TBD

February 1

Jews on Broadway, Part I. Jewish involvement on Broadway extends far beyond *Fiddler on the Roof*. We'll look at the composers and writers, the onstage talent, and the shows that have helped to shape "The Great White Way."

February 8

Jews on Broadway, Part II. We'll continue our exploration of Jewish influences within the world of theater. *You need not have attended the first session to appreciate this session.*

February 15

Jews on Broadway, Part III. We'll wrap up our look at Jewish influences within the world of theater. *You need not have attended the first two sessions to appreciate this session.*

