



Miller Introduction to
Judaism Program
OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

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Dear prospective participant,

I welcome your interest in the New Mexico Introduction to Judaism Program. The Miller Program is in my opinion the best Introduction to Judaism Program in the country. Designed by rabbis and educators at the American Jewish University (AJU) of Los Angeles, it offers a broad overview of Jewish religion, culture, practice, language, and values.

The program is designed for Jewish persons seeking to reconnect to their Jewish heritage, for persons coming from other cultures and religions who are curious about Judaism, for partners of Jewish persons who want to learn more about the ancient culture they experience in their relationship. The program is also designed for persons seeking conversion to Judaism to fulfill the traditional requirement for serious study before they cast their lot with the Jewish people.

Congregation B'nai Israel of Albuquerque, the congregation I serve as rabbi, is now an affiliate of the National Miller Introduction to Judaism which is based at the AJU in Los Angeles. The program originates from the Conservative Jewish Movement which is part of Liberal Judaism. The point of view which informs the Miller curriculum is compatible with Reform, Renewal, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Modern Orthodox Jewish outlooks. I will serve as the lead teacher. I have assembled a small team of locally active Jewish individuals with strong Jewish backgrounds to teach selected topics and to give participants exposure to Jewish persons who live committed Jewish lives. I will introduce you to them at the open house described below.

I am committed to offering this outstanding course of study even though we cannot physically gather because of Covid-19. Instead we will utilize zoom instruction which enables anyone in New Mexico to participate remotely. Hopefully, when the pandemic passes, we will offer in person classes complimented by Zoom online instruction for those who are coming to us from other locations in New Mexico.

Tuition for the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program is \$270 with a discount to students, military, and retired people of \$180. As a benefit of membership, new CBI members (those who have joined since August 2019) can enroll in the program for free (except for class materials). CBI members who joined before August 2019 receive a 50% off the tuition of \$270 for \$135.

The Miller Introduction Program at B'nai Israel will start on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7-8:30pm, with weekly Tuesday evening classes meeting through May 11, 2021 for a total of 35 hours of interactive learning.

Attached is detailed information about the dates, class topics, and other important information about the program.

I have also attached an application for you to fill out if you are interested. If you want more information about the program, please plan to come to the Virtual Open House with me on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from 7:15 to 8:15. I will cover the curriculum in more detail, informal enrichment activities, and answer any of your questions. Please register in advance to come to the open house by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information on the Miller Introduction to Judaism or to request an application, contact volunteer, Suzy Savage, by writing to her at YourwaytoJudasim@gmail.com or calling her phone at: 505 600-5530 before September 15th.

Thank you for your interest in the New Mexico Miller Introduction to Judaism. Be safe and healthy.

Shalom,

Rabbi Dov Gartenberg