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Monday, September 21, 2020

To Interfaith or Intercultural Couples,

I wanted to let you know of a special opportunity for intercultural/interfaith couples in which one partner is Jewish. Our congregation took the step of becoming an affiliate of the nationally recognized **Miller Introduction to Judaism Program** this summer. This **Miller Program** is a safe, stimulating, and informative context for interfaith and intercultural couples to explore and learn about Judaism.

What is the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program?

The program originates from the American Jewish University of Los Angeles where I did a portion of my rabbinic training. It is a product of the Conservative Movement. It reflects a pluralistic perspective on Jewish life and respect for different religious and cultural traditions. The curriculum has been developed by well-regarded Jewish educators and rabbis. The curriculum covers 18 broad subjects such as the Sabbath and Jewish festivals, Jewish home and life cycle, the Jewish library, Jewish thought and history, perspectives on God and ethics, modern Jewish history, understanding anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, and the significance of Zionism and the State of Israel.

The materials are lucid and well organized. The class sessions invite curiosity, encourage reflection, and maintain intellectual honesty. There is time to discuss issues, ask hard questions, and penetrate beyond basic understandings of Judaism. I serve as the lead teacher, with knowledgeable congregants serving as guest instructors for selected topics. Thirty-five hours of instruction are offered over weekly Tuesday evening classes from the beginning of October 2020 through mid-May 2021.

Because we still cannot gather in-person, the class sessions will be offered on a secure Zoom Video connection. When there is an “all clear” concerning the pandemic, we will start in person instruction with an option for Zoom Video participation for those in remote areas. The Miller Introduction Program at B’nai Israel will gather for the first class on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7-8:30pm. More information about the curriculum, the reading, the schedule and the application can be found at <https://www.bnaisrael-nm.org/learn/miller-intro-to-judaism>.

I invite both of you to join me for a journey exploring Judaism that will enrich your relationship and help you better to make decisions regarding such sensitive issues as childrearing, life cycle choices, festival celebration, and personal identity. There are not many opportunities to explore in such an honest way how to blend a relationship of different cultures and religion. I invite you to take the plunge.

I have attached a couples’ application to this letter with information about tuition. For more information on the Miller Introduction to Judaism, contact volunteer coordinator, Suzy Savage, at: 505 600-5530 or write me at the email listed above.

Shalom,

Rabbi Dov Gartenberg



Miller Introduction to
Judaism Program
OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

**Application for Miller Introduction to Judaism at Congregation B'nai Israel
For Couples**

NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

Street Address

_____, _____

City

State

Zip

PHONE 1: _____ **PHONE 2:** _____

EMAIL 1: _____ **EMAIL 2:** _____

EMPLOYMENT 1: Employed ___ Self Employed ___ Retired ___ Other _____
Occupation _____

EMPLOYMENT 2: Employed ___ Self Employed ___ Retired ___ Other _____
Occupation _____

- Partner 1: Please select what you presently identify as
 Jewish ___ Another Religion ___ None ___ It's complicated ___
 Partner 2: Please select what you presently identify as
 Jewish ___ Another Religion ___ None ___ It's complicated ___
- Partner 1: Are you interested in: Exploring my Jewish heritage ___ Converting to Judaism ___
 Taking this course with my partner to explore Judaism. ___ Other ___
 Partner 2: Are you interested in: Exploring my Jewish heritage ___ Converting to Judaism ___
 Taking this course with my partner to explore Judaism. ___ Other ___
- Partner 1: Have you studied Judaism previously? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, where and with whom?
 Partner 2: Have you studied Judaism previously? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, where and with whom?
- Partner 1: Do you participate in a Jewish congregation or Jewish organization? Yes ___ No ___
 If yes, name of the congregation or organization _____
 Partner 2: Do you participate in a Jewish congregation or Jewish organization? Yes ___ No ___
 If yes, name of the congregation or organization _____
- Partner 1: Are you currently involved with another faith tradition? Yes ___ No ___
 Partner 2: Are you currently involved with another faith tradition? Yes ___ No ___

6. Hebrew Literacy?

Partner 1: Can read and understand _____ Read Phonetically _____ None _____

Partner 2: Can read and understand _____ Read Phonetically _____ None _____

7. Why are both of you interested in the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program?

8. Where did you hear about the program?

Information about Registration for Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at B'nai Israel, ABQ

Tuition for Couples

\$270 per Couple enrolling in the full program including the course materials. ____

\$180 in which 1 partner is a student, retired, or active military. ____

\$135 if at least one partner is a CBI member before 2019. ____

Free if at least one partner became a CBI member after August 2019 ____

Financial Consideration is Available upon Request. Write to Rabbi Gartenberg at the email below.

Please include a check made out to Congregation B'nai Israel with MITJ in the memo. You can also pay for tuition by credit card by calling our office 505 266-0155. A 4% merchants fee is included in payments by credit card.

Please send this application with payment to:

Attn: Suzanne Savage, Coordinator
Miller Introduction to Judaism Program,
c/o Congregation B'nai Israel
4401 Indian School Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

We cannot accept applications after Friday October 27. 2020.

You will receive a confirmation letter soon after you register with course materials and timely information. If you have more questions about the course, please contact the lead teacher, Rabbi Dov Gartenberg at rdg@bnaiisrael-nm.org.

Please make a copy your application for your records.