

INTRODUCING THE MITZVAH INITIATIVE AT TEMPLE EMUNAH

Instructors: Rabbi David Lerner and Rabbi Marci Jacobs

Dates: 13 sessions, Sundays from 9:45-11 except where noted: Sept. 12 (Adult Ed. Opening Lecture); Nov. 19 (Friday night Shabbat dinner); Dec. 5; Dec. 12; Dec. 19; Jan. 9; Jan. 16; Jan. 23; Jan. 30; Feb. 6; March 13; March 27 (as part of Glatzer Memorial Weekend); April 10

This year, Temple Emunah is participating, along with Conservative congregations across the country, in the Mitzvah Initiative, a program born out of JTS Chancellor Arnold M. Eisen's vision for vibrant, meaningful Jewish living. The Mitzvah Initiative is an interactive program in which we will consider questions such as:

- What are the relationships and responsibilities that give my life meaning and purpose?
- How can I express this in an authentically Jewish way?
- What sources of Jewish wisdom can expand my thinking?
- What can I learn about my own relationship to Judaism and Jewish life?

Through sessions centered around discussion, reflection, and text study, participants in the Mitzvah Initiative will be able to articulate how the concept of mitzvah works as the organizing principle of Jewish life. Together, we will explore the idea of mitzvah in its many meanings, delve into the ways that various mitzvot have the potential to galvanize our community, and bring our own personalities and creativity to the endeavor by discovering our 'signature mitzvot,' those pieces of the Jewish tradition that speak to our souls.

Through these sessions, we will build a core community of learners, seeking together to bring meaning and authenticity to our Jewish lives. Our rich tradition gives us access to a world of value; through our study, we will explore that world, become expert in its ways, and make it our own. The Mitzvah Initiative will provide us with multiple opportunities not only to contemplate the concept of mitzvah, but to practice as well. We will connect our learning to our living, seeing how mitzvah is already operative in our community and uncovering new opportunities to put our ideas into practice.

The Mitzvah Initiative sessions will include both smaller group learning and occasions for larger-scale lectures and presentations. A number of these larger-scale opportunities will coincide with 55+ and Brotherhood Breakfasts, and will be open to the entire community. The core group of learners, those who participate in the entire program, will have the additional benefit of more intimate sessions, devoted to deeper discussion and exploration. This core group will ideally comprise 15-20 participants, although we'll certainly make room for more if there's interest!

We kick off the Mitzvah Initiative on Sunday, September 12, at 9:45 AM, with our opening Adult Ed. Lecture. See below for specifics. All are welcome.

If you're interested in learning more about the Mitzvah Initiative, please contact Rabbi Marci Jacobs at [mjacob@emunahlex.org](mailto:mjacobs@emunahlex.org) / 781.861.0300. And to find out first-hand how exciting the Mitzvah Initiative is going to be, please join us on September 12 at 9:45 for our opening session.



MITZVAH INITIATIVE DATES

September 12

(Adult Ed. Opening Lecture)

November 19

(Friday night Shabbat dinner)

December 5

December 12

December 19

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

February 6

March 13

March 27

(as part of
Glatzer Memorial Weekend)

April 10

