

Mitzvah Initiative Schedule of Topics, Committee Invitations, and Readings (Revised: 12/11/09)

NOTE: All congregants are invited to all of these sessions without having attended any prior sessions or having read the materials beforehand.

There will be handouts of all pertinent readings at each discussion.

The Mitzvah Initiative is a way to think about the ways in which what you are doing is being done as part of the central values of Judaism, and how it has ramifications that go well beyond this generation of Jews.

The idea is to get us all to think about how what we do as Jews is an obligation that commands our attention:

as Arthur Miller wrote in "Death of a Salesman:" *Attention must be paid!*

Sun., Oct. 25 - 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Lesson 1 : **Introduction to the Mitzvah Initiative and to each other**

November 8 Board Meeting:

Dvar Torah on the Mitzvot of Congregational Leadership

Sun. Nov. 22 - 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Part 1 Traditional views of *mitzvah*.

Lesson 6: **How the history of the idea of commandedness developed over time**

Sun. Dec. 13 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Part 2 Modern views of *mitzvah*.

Lesson 6: **How the history of the idea of commandedness developed over time**

Sun. Jan. 10 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Mitzvot that lead to engagement –Part 1

Understanding our obligations to people in illness and grief

How to visit the sick and the grieving

Mitzvah Havurah Invited

Lesson 7: Understanding obligation: *Hevrah kaddisha*

Friday night 7:30PM Jan. 22 (Bo)

Lesson 8: **Prayer (Tefillah)**

Praying by oneself, praying with a minyan, being a service leader

Sun. Feb. 21 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Meet with the Etz "People of the Books" to discuss

A. J. Jacobs' "Year of Living Biblically"

What are the differences between Biblical Judaism(s) and today's Judaisms?

Sun. Feb. 28 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Mitzvot that lead to engagement –Part 2

The environment: & Responsible husbanding of resources

Finance and Fundraising Committees Invited

Lesson 9 & 11: **Mitzvot on engagement and the environment:**

Heksher tzedek, Shmirat ha'adamah (mikveh –deleted)

Sun. Mar. 14 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Mitzvot that lead to engagement –Part 3 *Tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*

Social Action Committee Invited

Lesson 10: **Mitzvot that lead to engagement -- Tzedakah and tikkun olam**

March 27, Saturday 9AM during Torah Study (Torah Portion *Tzav!*/**Command** Leviticus 6-8) What are the *mitzvot* of Torah Study/Teaching?

Sun. Apr. 11 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

Mitzvot that lead to engagement –Part 4

Lesson 4 : **Mitzvot that express responsibility to others**

Returning lost items (*hashayvat avedah*)

Visiting the sick (*bikkur holim*)

Lesson 5: **Honoring Parents (kibud av va'em)**

Monday, April 19 7:30-9 PM Special Yom haAtzma'ut session:

The *Mitzvot* generated by the State of Israel:

How to correct, support, publicize, travel to, and otherwise respond to Israel's call on us, without it splitting the congregation.

Sun. May 23 -- 10:15AM – 11:30AM

What we do on Shabbat and Festivals, and how much of that we feel compelled to do.

How our physical space helps or hinders Jewish involvement.

Invited Committees:

Design, Facilities, Festivals, Oneg, and Religious Practice

Lesson 12: **Mitzvah as a way to think about G0d**

Lesson 13: **Mitzvah as a way to connect to G0d: Shabbat**

Fri. June 4 -- 7:30PM Grad Shabbat

Lesson 14: **Final Reflections**

Presentation to Congregation