

### **(Florence) Melton Adult Mini-School**

This innovative adult Jewish learning program provides the opportunity to achieve basic Jewish literacy in just two years, to learn the “whys” of everything Jewish. Students of varying backgrounds form a community of learners who explore Jewish texts and begin to understand how Judaism developed and what Judaism means to them. The pluralistic approach fosters an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and mutual understanding. Classes integrate Jewish history, law, beliefs, practices, ideas and terminology through the study of texts – from ancient to contemporary. The curriculum was developed and is constantly revised by a team of scholars at the Hebrew University.

**All Melton classes are open to new students. There are no prerequisites for any year’s program. Year One is not a prerequisite for Year Two Neither Melton One nor Two is a prerequisite for Year Three “Graduate Classes”**

**MELTON Year One** – Thursday mornings 9:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m

“RHYTHMS”: What are the ideas, beliefs, and sources that shape Jewish life and practice, including the daily, weekly, monthly, annual life-cycle observances and customs?

“PURPOSES”: Why do Jews believe what they do, and what are the theological concepts that unfold in the Bible, the Talmud, and other sacred texts – both ancient and contemporary?

**MELTON Year Two** – Thursday evenings 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.

“ETHICS”: An exploration of the Jewish ethical foundations dealing with issues such as justice, life and death, marriage and interpersonal relationships, medical and business ethics, and sexuality.

“DRAMAS”: What are the events, trends, and movements that have shaped our people’s history and development throughout the ages? What are the import highlights and watersheds from biblical times until today?

**MELTON Graduate Class** – Thursday Mornings 9:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m

“Biblical Text” - Looking at the biblical stories to develop an appreciation of how the text can speak to us today. And “Food for thought” - Hazon’s curriculum on Jews, Food and Contemporary Life  
“Holocaust and Israel”

**Instructors:** Rabbi Alan Silverstein and Education Director Susan Werk

**Time:** Thursdays

**Dates:** September 18, 25, October 16, 23, 30  
November 6,13,20 December 4,11,18 January 8,15,22,29 February 5,12,26 March 5,12,19,26  
April 2,23,30 May 7,14,21 June 4,11

**Location:** Toby Shapiro Adult Conference Center

**Cost:** \$550.00 Tuition plus \$50.00 book fee  
JCC Members and Members of Melton Partner Organizations: \$550.00  
CAI congregants will receive \$100 rebate

Registration & payment for all MELTON courses are to be sent to: Rhonda Lillianthal, Florence Melton Adult Mini-School JCC MetroWest, 760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052. For more information, contact Rhonda Lillianthal 973-530-3519 ([rlillianthal@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:rlillianthal@jccmetrowest.org))

### ***From our Melton students....***

- It has strengthened my love of Judaism
  - It is a very spiritual 2 hours. It is my connection to God
  - It’s open a lot more windows into Judaism than I ever could have expected
  - It showed me how rich Jewish learning is. There is no end to what we can learn.
    - This has filled in so many gaps. I have had so many “Aha” moments.
  - It was a gift, literally. It was my milestone birthday gift to myself. It was the best gift I ever received
- I greatly enjoyed the camaraderie. I had always pictured only men sitting and studying. Now, I feel part of a real *chevrah* (friendship circle) of female and male learners and friends.