Valley Beit Midrash is a collaborative organization that brings new, exciting, and relevant programs to the Greater Phoenix Jewish community in a diverse, welcoming, engaging, and pluralistic setting.

### Upcoming Events and Classes for the Year

#### Living Jewish Values to Change the World

**Name:** Rabbi Shoshana Brous  
**Title:** Spiritual leader of IKAR, a nine-year-old independent congregation in Los Angeles  
**Date:** Sunday, April 6th, 5:00-6:30 PM at Congregation Or Chadash  
**No Charge**

**Named #1 Rabbi in America by Newsweek!**

#### A Torah of Human Dignity and Justice

**Name:** Rabbi Bradley Artson  
**Title:** A Torah of Human Dignity and Justice  
**Date:** Sunday, February 16th, 10:00 AM at Or Chadash  
**No Charge**

**Rabbi Artson will also be speaking at Or Chadash over Shabbat**

#### The Future of American Judaism: Challenges & Opportunities in the 21st Century

**Name:** Jerry Silverman  
**Title:** President and Chief Executive Officer of The Jewish Foundations of North America  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9th, 7:00-8:30 PM at Temple Chai

#### Inside-Out: Biblical Leaders and Their Non-Jewish Mentors

**Name:** Judy Klitsner  
**Title:** Inside-Out: Biblical Leaders and Their Non-Jewish Mentors  
**Date:** Monday, November 4th, 7:00-8:30 PM at Beth Israel  
**No Charge**

#### Religion Isn’t True: A Defense of Religion

**Name:** Rabbi David Kasher  
**Title:** Religion Isn’t True: A Defense of Religion  
**Date:** Sunday, December 8th, 5:00-6:30 PM at Kol Ami  
**No Charge**

#### The Holiness of Israel: Land For Peace in the Jewish Tradition

**Name:** Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller  
**Title:** The Holiness of Israel: Land For Peace in the Jewish Tradition  
**Date:** February 3rd, 7:00-8:30 PM at Temple Chai  
**No Charge**

#### Rabbi Bradley Artson

**Title:** A Torah of Human Dignity and Justice  
Date: Sunday February 16th  
10:00AM at Or Chadash  
No Charge

Rabbi Artson will also be speaking at Or Chadash over Shabbat

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**Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz**  
is the Executive Director of the Valley Beit Midrash.

Rav Shmuly completed his Masters at Yeshiva University in Jewish Philosophy, a Masters at Harvard in Moral Psychology and a Doctorate at Columbia in Epistemology and Moral Development.


Rav Shmuly is the Founder of Uri L’Tzedek and the Shamayim V’Aretz Institute and has volunteered, taught, and staffed missions in five continents including Israel, Ghana, India, France, Thailand, El Salvador, Britain, Senegal, Germany, Switzerland, Ukraine, Argentina, South Africa and Haiti.

Newsweek rated Rabbi Yanklowitz one of the top 50 rabbis in America.

www.valleybeitmidrash.org
Panel Discussions

Join us for our annual panel discussion series bringing together rabbis and scholars from across the Valley of the Sun to discuss critical issues confronting our community in the twenty-first century.

Rabbinic ‘Takes’ on Tough Texts - Akeidat Yitzhak, The Binding of Isaac
Monday, December 2nd, 2013
7:00 PM at the JCC
(Sponsored by the JCC and the WJLC)

Panel
Rabbi Mari Chemow, Rabbi Michael Wasserman, Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz

How do we Change? Different Approaches to the Evolution of Jewish Tradition
January 15th, 2014
7:00 - 8:30PM at Or Chadash

Facilitator
Rabbi Jeremy Schneider, Spiritual leader of Kol Ami
Panel
Rabbi Reuven Mann, Spiritual leader of Young Israel
Rabbi Michah Caplan, Spiritual leader of Or Chadash
Rabbi Stephen Kahn, Spiritual leader of Beth Israel

Jewish Theological and Practical Approaches to Relationships with Other Religions
February 18th, 2014
7:00 - 8:30PM at Congregation Temple Solel

Facilitator
Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, Executive Director of VBM
Panel
Rabbi John Linder, Spiritual Leader at Temple Solel
Rabbi Elena Kantor, Director of the Women’s Jewish Learning Center
Rabbi Robert Kravitz, Hospital Chaplain

Atheism, Agnosticism, and Perfect Belief: The Parameters of Jewish Conceptions of G-d
March 26th, 2014
7:00 - 8:30PM at Congregation Beth Tefillah

Facilitator
Professor Joel Gereboff, ASU Religious Studies Faculty
Panel
Rabbi Pinchas Allouche, Spiritual leader of Beth Tefillah
Rabbi Mari Chemow, Spiritual leader of Temple Chai
Jeffrey Scherstein, President & Ceremonial Leader of Or Adams Congregation

About Us:
The mission of Valley Beit Midrash is to improve the quality of Jewish life in the Greater Phoenix Jewish community by:

- Bringing together a diverse cross-section of the community
- Encouraging greater cooperation and collaboration between different Jewish organizations
- Teaching, modeling, and inspiring the value of pluralism
- Cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders

Valley Beit Midrash was established in 2007 as a collaborative effort to bring together a diverse cross-section of the Greater Phoenix Jewish community around Jewish learning. The partnership between Valley Beit Midrash, Jewish Start Me Up, and more established Jewish institutions (synagogues, JCCs, etc) is a model for the American Jewish community in the 21st century. Valley Beit Midrash has attracted affiliated and unaffiliated members of our community in the thousands, brought together rabbis from across the denominations, began to cultivate a new generation of leaders for our community (The Start Me Up fellowship), created a high-level program for team leaders in the community (The VBM Teen Scholars Program), and established a program for medical professionals (HaRofeh: The Jewish Medical Society of the Valley). Thank you for making Valley Beit Midrash your home in the Valley for community learning.

Intolerance, Tolerance, & Pluralism: An Exploration of Modern Jewish Approaches to Truth & Peoplehood
Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz
Dates: Wednesdays October 16th, 30th, November 13th
7:00 - 8:15PM at Temple Chai
Cost: $18 - $54 for the series

As we continue to witness clashes between the Ultra-Orthodox and secular in Israel, the various denominations in America, and observe all the Jewish politics, we must ask: Are we truly one people anymore? How do we balance the goals of Jewish unity and Jewish diversity? What are the boundaries to Judaism? Does the tradition philosophically promote values-exclusivity, communal-inclusivity, or a plurality of truths? How do Jewish values help us navigate this collision of consciousness between traditional and modern ways of understanding ourselves?

Truths & Myths: What do we really believe in?
Rabbi Pinchas Allouche
Dates: Wednesdays November 20th, December 4th, December 18th
7:00 - 8:15PM at Temple Chai
Cost: $18 - $54 for the series

Do Jews believe in Satan? What is the evil eye? How does it work? Are we accompanied by guardian angels? Is “an eye for an eye” to be taken literally? What do we truly believe? Join Rabbi Allouche as we together delve into some of Judaism’s most surprising facts, myths, and mysteries.

To Whom Are We Responsible: The Tensions of Global Jewish Citizens in the 21st Century
Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz
Dates: Wednesdays February 12th, 26th, March 12th
7:00 - 8:15PM at Temple Chai
Cost: $18 - $54 for the series

Over a billion people live on less than $1 a day! With commitments to help our family, the Jewish community around the world, and to be responsible to God, we must ask: Who are we responsible to? Does the Jewish tradition include obligations and relationships? What’s the origin of our responsibilities to others in the Jewish tradition and how do we navigate the tensions?

Cosponsored Events

Announcing the Road to Eden world premiere
September 21st, 2013 - Doors open at 6:30PM at VOS JCC

Dr. Ruth Satinover Fagen
Program of the WJLC, Cosponsored by VBM, Held at the New Shul

Fear, Sin, Longing and Desire: The Purpose of the Mishkan — October 20th, 7:30PM
Searching for Truthful Judgment: The Tension Between Truth, Peace, and Justice in the Rabbinic Legal System — October 21st, 11:00AM

What Hath God Wrought: Communication and Religion in the Early American Republic
Professor Daniel Howe – November 16th, 7:00PM at Temple Chai

Global Day of Jewish Learning, November 17th, 10:00AM - 12:00PM at Beth Tefillah

The Desert Gathering Jewish Music Festival
(a VBM Start Me Up! Project) – November 17th, 4:00 - 9:00PM