

Temple Beth-El welcomes those who are exploring Judaism.

FORMAL LEARNING:

During the year-long process, you must complete an Introduction to Judaism course through the [Union for Reform Judaism \(URJ\)](#) (list Rabbi Marina Yergin as your referring Rabbi), a basic Hebrew class (through the [URJ](#) or at [Temple Beth-El](#)) and Choosing Judaism at Temple Beth-El (class formation will depend on demand).

LIVING A JEWISH LIFE:

There is no specific way you need to live a Jewish life - it's all about exploration! Begin living a Jewish life which consists of religious experiences, as well as communal celebrations and personal observance. Begin to observe Shabbat rituals and Jewish holidays in synagogue and at home - in ways that work for you. Attend Shabbat services at Temple on a regular basis, begin the observance of *mitzvot*, participate in the Jewish community - both Temple Beth-El and larger San Antonio Jewish community, and engage in ongoing acts of *tikkun olam* (social action). Plan to attend one Conservative, Orthodox and/or Reconstructionist Shabbat service to fully understand the spectrum of Jewish practices.

EACH CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

- Meetings with Rabbi Yergin and Rabbi Nathan.
- Complete an open book exam which must be completed in order to continue with Choosing Judaism.
- Complete 8-10 journal entries during the Choosing Judaism course.
- Attend a counseling session with Dr. Debra Morrow.
- Complete a project on a topic of your choosing that allows you to discover other avenues of Judaism.

Following the completion of the above, you may be invited to participate in a *beit din*, which is a clergy court. If that is successful, you will be invited to attend the *mikvah*, the ritual immersion. An optional formal conversion ceremony for the entire class will be scheduled. There is an option for *hatafat dam brit* for those who choose.

To set up an appointment with Rabbi Marina Yergin, call Temple at (210) 733-9135 ext. 107 and speak with Edith Vanderventer.