

Teacher Reports

The Making Prayer Real Course



Rabbi Janet Marder
Congregation Beth Am
Los Altos Hills, CA

They were eager to try the various prayer techniques... The class formed close bonds and over the months of the course, built an open and trusting environment in which they felt comfortable sharing their questions, doubts, struggles, and achievements in their prayer lives. At the end, they made their own video on their experience and shared it with the congregation.



Rabbi Shawna Bynjergard-Bialik
Temple Ahavat Shalom
Northridge, CA

Teaching this class has changed the nature of the conversations with my students about prayer and worship services. We have forged a bond that is different from every other class that I teach—there is a real sense of a shared journey. The videos give the students a chance to see the nuances in approaches to prayer; with so many “experts” it is clear that there is no one answer, and that opens up our conversations. My own prayer life has changed; it has put me more in touch with my own spirituality and has changed the way I think of myself as a prayer leader.



Rabbi Elana Zelony
Congregation Beth Torah
Richardson, TX

If you want to transform the prayer community, you have to start with each individual. During our Conservative tefila, it's hard to work with people who feel outside. We need a workshop elsewhere for people to take first steps. This class hands them tools, a wrench to open Hebrew, a screwdriver to adjust your kavana. Students take the tefila experience apart, see what's inside, and rebuild it for themselves.



Rabbi Greg Wolfe
Congregation Bet Haverim
Davis, CA

Teaching the Making Prayer Real Course has been an exciting, engaging and enriching journey for me as a rabbi. I feel that this course has put many new tools at my disposal to guide those in my community towards discovering the spiritual riches of our Jewish tradition. We are having conversations about prayer and practice that I don't think happen in many other places.



Sarah Gluck, Educator
Temple Beth-El
Hillsborough Township, NJ

Our class discussions are always lively and interesting, and often deeply moving. We tackle serious issues, laugh frequently, and occasionally are moved to tears. Each of us has grown individually; together, we have become a spiritual community. Making Prayer Real has taught us not only how to count our blessings, but how to be a blessing, and our community is the richer for it.