

**A Survey of the Modern Orthodox Jewish Community in the United States
September 2017**

Responses to Q10. Is there anything new or different you'd like to see available to you in areas of Jewish study (topics, programs, speakers, learning opportunities, etc.)?

A NOTE ON ANONYMITY: The responses are presented verbatim, without corrections of spelling or grammar. We value respondents' anonymity very highly and treat it with the greatest respect and caution. To that end, all potentially identifying information (such as names of cities, shuls, rabbis, or other information that might identify a respondent) has been edited for purposes of anonymity [edits may be indicated by square brackets]. Please contact Nishma Research if you have any questions or comments on this matter.

- I believe that the area most lacking in Orthodoxy is a formal program of structured stepwise learning for the adult Baal teshuvah with limited or no formal learning background, beginning with basic Hebrew reading and progressing slowly and methodically to text based learning. There are myriad shiurim, chaburim, etc for those with formal day school education; however, while there are Kiruv organizations that try to mekareiv those unaffiliated, once they are brought into the fold, they are left to swim on their own. This is especially true for older adults who cannot pick up and go learn at a kiruv Yeshiva in Israel.
- Formal educational programs structured as if, or actually leading to a degree.
- There is a lack of emphasis on Tanach, and the basics in general. You have people learning gemara who haven't studied the Prophets or Other Writings to a significant extent.
- Learning about sex and how we can adapt technology to our lives and still be observant Jews.
- Less focus on text based discussions with translation of texts as the major feature of the program.
- More Tikvah-Fund-esque programming -- i.e. programs that deal with both philosophy, and Jewish texts at the same time.
- I would like to see beginning Hebrew language study, beginning Talmud study--methodology, Jewish women's history including history of minhag and practice, my intelligent/creative discussion about supporting women's spiritual/religious growth and learning and needs given the constraints of traditional i.e. not Partnership model. More genuine respect for women.
- Applying Jewish thought to modern issues - not just halakhik practice, but also public policy, environment, social issues, international issues, musar.
- stronger connection between the learning I do privately and the shul experience; perhaps a learning component that was intellectually engaging and interactive, bringing the community together that was integrated into the Shabbat morning shul experience
- More female speakers, and a wider range of speakers in general.
- Learning through action instead of just reading from sources. This can engage community members to better understand halachic issues.
- Structured learning opportunities for women who have already advanced past the programs available
- More interdenominational learning opportunities
- I want a women's smicha program with real educational standards and expectations.
- Classes that are geared toward higher levels that are not for smicha study.
- More thinkers combining traditional learning with academic approaches to learning. Additionally, teachers who, on a broad level, present a post-modern approach to Torah.
- Comfort in entering beis medrash to retrieve sefarim, when men are present.
- Comfort in retrieving sefarim from beis medrash in the shul, when men are present.
- Comfort in retrieving sefarim from the beis medrash in the shul, even when the kollel or yeshivish balabatim are using the space.
- Higher-level learning for students without a formal Jewish education
- More learning opportunities centering around women leadership in the Jewish community, more encouragement to learn and explore Talmud and tanakh as a woman.
- I want to undertake (with chavruta) deep and radical/critical study of morally and philosophically problematic aspects of orthodoxy.
- Discussion of the moral challenges that leaders and lay people face in the Orthodox community

- I would love to have access to a weekly intermedeaye Gemara class. The only one near me is for men only
- Access to English books and commentary at shul more one on one study
- more womens serious gemara opportunities
- I would like some programs available during am and early afternoon as I find driving at night becoming difficult. I would like some light text study on Halacha, tanach etc. topics.
- Jewish values, morals and ethics relating to environmental protection.
- Yes! For me right now, a podcast would be the ideal form of Jewish study. I am often either in the car or taking my baby on walks while he sleeps. I have had a hard time finding podcasts that are more intellectually engaging and less fluffy. I also am looking for books, in particular, but also speakers/podcasts etc about emunah (but that aren't fluffy either).
- Explorations of other streams of Judaism to better understand Jewish expressions of religion.
- More beit midrash spaces welcoming to independent study for women in our communities
- serious study of midrash, more topics in current halacha, parent-child study that is not gender-matched, hands-on learning (such as taking challah, sofrut, schechita, tzitzit tying, etc)
- More opportunities for women, more comfort with controversial medical ethics
- Topics pertaining to raising children.
- more tanakh, jewish history, more in depth 'yeshiva style' shiurim accessible to those w/o the background of serious talmud study themselves
- Israel Advocacy countering antisemitism training (practical methods, big & small, to counter anti-Israel and antisemitic talk and actions)
- Two things missing: Good Hebrew courses. Classes designed to bring someone without a yeshivah education in Gemara up to the level of a yeshivah education in Gemara.
- Engagement with real life issues, openness to debate
- More full time/ intensive learning opportunities for adults, especially those who do not necessarily want a title, and especially for women.
- In general, more learning opportunities. Especially during the week. (What if I want to go away for shabbat and the one shiur on shabbat afternoon at my shul isn't enough to keep me at home for the entire weekend?) Regarding topics, less political things. I'm not inclined to go to a shiur just to hear some speaker's opinions about Israel advocacy. I'd want to learn more practical halacha, or mussar.
- How to stay halachically-sound but live in the modern world
- More advanced level but English-language resources.
- programs for young single adults to facilitate meeting a spouse
- Our area has wonderful opportunities in general but more real Talmud study open to men and women (meaning co-ed) and teens would be very wonderful. Also parent-child study that isn't limited by gender (instead of mom-daughter, father-son)
- Focus on women's Leadership role
- More intellectually rigorous classes open to women.
- Science and Religion as a topic.
- LGBTQ
- Women's equality. Singles support
- Inclusiveness of LGBT orthodox identifying people, woman's challenges of working full time with children while still balancing a Jewish life. Day school tuition.
- Kabbalah. Without it halacha is inaccessible in my opinion. It's also less compelling without the study of Kabbalah.
- More open minded Jewish learning. I am thinking of trying Conservative Movement classes because I am being alienated by Orthodoxy including the recent rulings on women in the Rabinit.
- Inclusiveness of LGBT Orthodox Jews and their families, woman's challenges with work, kids and religious obligations, Jewish day School pricing that is like birth control and debilitating for many with middle incomes
- More Y'mei Iyyun scheduled on weekends
- Helping others to become more committed to Judaism at an earlier age. the curriculum for Yiddishkeit needs greater emphasis upon the Jewish home.
- More of a focus on spiritual growth
- More diverse speakers and scholars in residence although I know there are costs involved for the individual shul. That is a challenge.
- More women speakers
- Modern Jewish though
- my soul offers many excellent classes; I'm not always able to attend all those that interest me.
- My synagogue, Young Israel of Scarsdale, has ample opportunities for continuing education, as does my children's yeshiva. However, as I am pursuing a masters degree and work full time and have 3 children and

manage the household I do not currently have time to learn, but hope to in the future.

- Practical advice on kashrut and Shabbat observance and basic Jewish history as well as explanation of prayer and broad overview of Jewish sources and philosophy
- Here's what you can gather about my responses here: learning torah is a huge priority in my life. I absolutely love studying the texts of our tradition. However, even though my friends think of me as an orthodox person -- in private I barely keep hilchot shabbat and hilchot kashrut and shul is a huge bore (with the exception of the rabbi's sermon and socializing in kiddush).
- How to help agunot who are trapped without a divorce. What steps we can take as a community to report and eliminate child/spousal abuse.
- more talks on being accepting and welcoming of transgender Jews.
- I wish there was more taught about marriage
- Not shutting women out of learning and davening
- I am ready to strengthen my knowledge of the order of the Siddur and Shabbat services, the Hebrew language, attendance at shul, and participation in the Jewish community
- I would like more candid discussion of the structural weaknesses of the orthodox system in particular as it relates to treating all people with respect, dignity and independent agency.
- I miss having access to the teachers in Jerusalem. The level of learning in my community is simply not the same.
- Not particularly relevant. Our pleasant able Rabbi is a gone yeshivish mussarnickes but he serves some congregants and I get a minyan.
- More classes for working women at night and on weekends. Classes/programming aimed at older singles 40+ not married.
- Yes, more discussion surrounding Jewish issues relating to the modern world which I have asked our Rabbi's wife to give a weekly class on and she has agreed.
- more basic talmud skills being taught to adults
- The rabbi tackling real problems and issues.
- more discussions on the encounter of Judaism w/ other religions especially Islam, into Islam for Jews, more advanced community shiurim taught by women
- Ethics and halachah as it pertains to modern life. How saying no to a halachic question is not always the correct answer.
- On Shabbat, I would like the Rabbi to focus more on the Torah portion rather than politics.
- We have a dearth of learning opportunities where I live. I'd like to see more of lots of things.
- Innovative approach to textual study and appreciation by the majority of the Jewish community. Bridging the growing gap between the practice and observance of Judaism in Israel and in the US
- I would like to see more Tanach classes aimed at beginners, especially Nach.
- More women's shiurim
- Couples gemara learning.
- An overall total reorganization of the Orthodox shul.
- More female commentators more easily available
- More learning Opportunities for wives relating to kosher home and family
- Explanation of the prayers. Shul etiquette.
- Women and Halacha - can women pasken: why and why not? Non orthodox movement: to embrace or push back: why or why not? Conversion and the law of land v Torah An Understanding of the order of prayer and meaning of tefillah
- local ulpan
- Jewish cooking from around the world, How to cook for more people at your table (ba'alei tshuva and having more company) a class on bikur cholim and other mitzvot of that general type more information about tehillim
- a local ulpan
- More classes that address women's participation in Jewish religious life
- More adult classes on tefillah
- More time would be very helpful. Also information about new scholarship and books as they appear.
- I would like it if rabbis would tell people how important it is to take care of the environment. It's important, critical right now and part of our tikkun olam. Also they need to talk more about how people should address LGBT family and community members and remind them discrimination towards anyone is against Judaism. Including regarding race or gender. Also if they could remind them that the Torah permits abortion and they should stop emulating evangelical Christians by criminalizing any woman who has needed one
- Yachdus respect for all religions especially respect for those Jews whose views are either to the left or to the right How to achieve spirituality through synagogue attendance
- get more involved in politics in USA and Israel

- Hashkafa, Jewish Philosophy
- Tekhelet programs
- Sidur, tehilim,
- I would like to see more on Jewish practice and less on "Social Justice" that benefits non-Jews.
- Preparation of post-graduate institutions and programs for the Baby Boomers of the 1960s and early 1970s who are or will be retiring soon and never had the opportunity to spend the now almost obligatory year in Israel after high school. Many men (and women too) will likely want to avail themselves of more intense learning opportunities, perhaps even leading to s'micha? Time to teach the ol' folks how to learn in depth rather than just the superficiality of the nevertheless miraculous Art Scroll method of learning by reading, briefly contemplating, moving on, and forgetting.
- More 1st Sefer of Rambam
- Online webinars or podcasts that are geared to busy, smart professionals who are not professional-level "learners." It seems like everything is either really intense and in Hebrew, or for kiruv, or just kind of otherwise dumbed down. Nothing in between.
- Academic learning
- Inclusion of women in ritual. Breaking the "male only" barriers.
- I would love to see mandatory training for all Rabbis and teachers in Yeshiva day schools in how to resolve seeming contradictions between science and religion and comparative religion. These are topics that many high school kids bring up and they need to be addressed. Instead, the students are either told that they are apikoreses for asking the questions, or told some sort of nonsense dogma that the teacher has been taught that does not really answer the question.
- Progressive topics like female rabbis
- Academic Tanach.
- women's issues
- The overall education programs in my synagogue is well rounded for my needs.
- Study retreats/trips for unmarried Jewish adults (that are not geared to being singles events).
- More high level gemara classes and more academic and source based classes
- More of an acceptance of modern academic tools in the study of tanach and rabinnic sources
- YU ordaining qualified and mature men and of course women but firstly revamping their rabbinical education
- Halacha as it applies to a modern Jew
- Serious daily study of Gemara
- speakers, online classes
- Study of Jewish interactions with secular society - obligations, restrictions, conduct
- I think recently there has been a big push toward the topic of business halacha but I think that push should be continued and taught more in our yeshiva education system so that people are aware of the many halachic issues that come up with business
- more discussions and engagements regarding modern day issues
- More Navi and Jewish history.
- Talks directed towards the relationship between Jewish values and environmentalism/ sustainability
- I need to find more, enjoy live over internet classes and I recognize my responsibility to get to class.
- I would love to see more learning led by women.
- More learning opportunities for teenagers.
- More higher learning opportunities for women
- More community activities such as getting to know other people in my neighborhood
- My congregation offers many programs to choose from
- Hebrew language A parsha class taught by someone without a strong background can relate to.
- More feminist topics
- More speakers on balancing life in this sometimes odd world. Important well known speakers
- We already try to offer a varied program and are quite open about the topics covered.
- (Splitting Halachah and Mussar into different categories for starters.....) Maybe a tanach/parsha podcast or other topic podcast?
- More women's programs (especially study programs)
- More in depth learning courses that are co-Ed or available for women. Also something like a daf yomi email that's quick and on the go since many of us are very busy but want to maintain a connection. Also would like to destigmatize the idea of a woman choosing to learn for more than one year after high school.
- Expansions of programming for those interested in understanding the historical context of biblical and Talmudic development. The Jewish community does not provide the resources necessary for those interested in an in-depth historical/academic analysis of religion and halacha.
- Better ways to master the prayer service
- There are many choices in our community for study.

- My classes on mastering the prayer service
- More interfaith and interdenominational discussion and dialogue
- I would like the study of parts the Tanach that are not often studied. We read the Torah, the tehillim, and the five Megillah. The rest of the tanach is bad socially regulated to the haftorah portions. I wish the rest was studied.
- I'd like to have the shul host women scholars, YCT graduates, Maharat graduates as speakers.
- More discussion about integrating Judaism with the modern world. Not constantly portraying the non Jewish world and secular knowledge as something that is only negative and to be avoided at all costs.
- there is abundant opportunity for intense study
- Would like to hear speakers from other Jewish denominations and from other religions
- More updated and clearer explanations on tefillah
- BH the opportunities for learning are too plentiful for me to fully take advantage; however, I wish women were more welcomed in shuls (ensuring unlocked doors to women's section, not setting up kiddish on women's side during davening, always having the mechitza up, etc.) and that speakers were careful not to speak only to the male audience. Oh! Actually, I would love a mishmar for women on Thursday nights.
- practical halacha
- Judaism and modern Life
- A ban on gender segregated learning
- More information on practical Halacha related to gardening and farming in eretz Yisrael and outside.
- Online chavrusa for chumash rashi
- More topics bridging our differences-women in roles that have only been thought to be for men, homosexuality and how to allow them to feel included
- It would be amazing if there was access to Talmud shiurim open to women (not necessarily exclusively.)
- Yes! More liberal views
- More American/Israel engagement,
- How to educate teachers to not be dogmatic and instill a love of Judaism in their pupils. How to instill a love of Judaism in teenagers without turning them off to Torah and Yiddishkeit.
- business ethics, medical ethics.
- on line studies. More opportunities for day time studies for women.
- More emphasis on Rambam.
- My Jewish formal education in a previous question was not one of your answers, I attended after school Hebrew school & Jewish High school (after school from grades 2-12, I have a certificate of Jewish Studies from IU in Bloomington, I attended 3 weeks at Shearim, I have attended multiple classes and series of classes over the years
- Due to the time constraints of my work schedule, I'd be interested in a 10-minutes a day of Torah sort of thing.
- I would love to see more events that bring people from different shul communities together. For example, each week or even once a month a different shul in the area can host a speaker to event.
- more classes by women teachers, primarily on tanach or halacha
- Chill Hashem, business ethics, actual halachos of tznius (not chumros)
- Much improved harmony and tolerance between the groups
- More serious learning for women
- On line community shiurim.
- More on Tefillah
- It would be nice to have a weekly review of main news stories from a halakhic / traditional Jewish perspective
- science and halacha
- Halachos for the workplace and women and Halacha
- I'd love to have an Aruch HaShulchan shiur, as well as an Igros Moshe shiur.
- More classes for women who are already observant - they don't need kiruv, but they still want to grow
- Rabbi classes for more learned people. All classes seem aimed to those with little background.
- the women classes are not intellectual enough
- More female scholars-in-residence
- Some good musar on how to not shun, torment or otherwise oppress gay or transgender Jews with halachic perspective would be interesting. Don't know enough to say otherwise.
- More discussion about Halacha and Talmud.
- More outreach to Jews of Color. More welcoming spaces for Jews of Color. Talk about racism in the Jewish community and racism in the world.
- spiritually uplifting atmosphere
- Better publicized web sites dedicated to learning. There is practically nothing publicized about any learning sites.
- Jewish ethics
- more classes for women after 5PM

- More historical scholars
- more issues relating to participation of women
- Serious Orthodoxy - more Twerskis, Lamms, Grunblatts, Greenbergs, Bleichs, Soloveitchiks
- I have seen very little about modern day issues regarding calculating tzedakah. I have also felt there is a lack of education about the laws between man and man. I feel that we need more events/speakers/topics, etc to promote unity among all different people in the world, not just unity among Jews.
- I would like to see more focus on Jewish monetary issues.
- Beit Midrash that is open 24 hours where women are welcome
- Mussar How to conduct oneself in shul, especially in regards to talking during davening. Meaning of prayers beyond exact translation, and appropriate kavanah.
- The Jewish Center offers a broad and satisfactory range of study subjects.
- Ulpan
- Elementary and high school for serious modern orthodox families... thereby allowing for my children to return to the midwest to educate their children.
- More learning opportunities relating to lay people who do not have the scriptural background often needed to truly understand many of the talks given in this community.
- Practical application of halacha today. More study of the prophets and other books of the torah. For men, too much emphasis on Gemara and not enough on Chumash and other books of torah.
- Aliyah
- No one of the things I enjoy most about being Orthodox is the wide range of learning opportunities (scholars in residence, Shavuot learning, Shabbat afternoon panels and lectures) at my synagogue.
- ethics of the fathers
- Invite as scholar in residence rabbis from Chovevei.
- Yes, being honest with many issues that affect our communities - drugs, alcohol, deaths/suicides etc
- Drusha's relating to the modern world.
- Appreciate the variety
- Diversity of topics and views
- Kid friendly
- More on Navi
- Medical ethics Career ethics Balance of career and Jewish home in modern world
- I do not enjoy lectures and classes. I do not participate in learning opportunities in synagogues, institutes, etc. As I am still employed full time, I cannot commit to scheduled classes and evenings are devoted to health matters (i.e. gym).
- I would like to hear more about the interaction between Judaism and law, science and society
- more high level women's learning opportunities; more high level classes in general
- My shul is very committed to a kollel. I support it for those who are interested. I know that there are a significant number of members who are not. This group would like to see lectures and classes open to all, that speak to current issues within Jewish tradition and law. The questions asked in the survey implied that it was directed at men as most of the questions such as attendance on Friday night, morning minyan etc. are for the most part directed at men as it is not the American orthodox tradition for women to attend. Was this survey intended for men? I certainly hope not. I am a woman and when I do attend to say Kaddish I deeply resent that there has to be a man saying Kaddish as well so that it is not necessary to respond amen to my Kaddish. I do not accept that this is halachic. It is also insulting that the charity box is not offered to a woman saying Kaddish. If there was a permanent and respectful Ezrat Nashim in which I can view the services and feel comfortable I might very likely attend morning services routinely. The question: is it possible to move to the right and still consider the wishes and needs of the modern orthodox?
- More speakers science based related to interaction between science and Halacha
- I'd like to see more of the type of class I currently attend - we study a specific topic (in this case related to women), looking at the development from gemara to today - so it's not "here's the halacha", but rather how did we get to the norms that are followed today, and are they halacha, minhag, or something else.
- Class on Tefilah.
- I want to take conversational Hebrew, but I cannot find such a course anywhere including the JCC, my shul, and neighborhood shuls.
- More speakers on Shabbat morning
- Hebrew language. My rabbi is too in touch with modern life and does not bring Halacha into Shul enough
- The learning programs in my community are very Gemara-centric. I do not enjoy learning Gemara and have found it difficult to find classes in Tanach, Halacha,

or other topics such as Jewish History (another topic that is not given sufficient attention in my community).

- How to afford being Orthodox.
- Philosophy
- Jewish Meditation
- How to maintain strong Jewish identity and focus on Israel while being fully integrated into modern society
- More programs in Brooklyn about Tanach
- A stronger linkage/connection between the Judaics we study and the backgrounds and history for a better perspective on why they have their opinions
- learning to Daven, read Hebrew as fast as the rest of the world be able to do morning service in 20 minutes (LOL)
- Mishnah
- I'd like to see the shul have shiurim in bayur and hilchot tefila
- More wide-ranging selection of speakers invited to serve as scholars in residence.
- Ulpan, conversational hebrew
- women's study at night
- Spilling the seed. If it's so important, why is there no mention of it in orthodoxy.
- more programs pertaining to contemporary issues
- Lectures on weekend or nights for mothers that work during the day.
- Partnered learning, classes
- topics, speakers on topics that are meaningful to seniors
- More inspirational topics; more on how to be an ethical person in 2017; more substance with lots of speakers from Drisha types of places
- I like practical classes. There aren't too many of those
- Israel ed
- Wish there were more real scholars speaking in this area, instead of "story tellers."
- More about the real Judaism - Ethiopian and Yemenite stories before they were corrupted when moving to Israel.
- More classes for women
- More emphasis on how to deal with the modern world.
- Kiruv - discussions of representing orthodox Judaism to the outside world (i.e Jewish Federation, work place, politics etc)
- More related to the modern world
- Programs for singles
- Focus on mental health, focus on actually building healthy, (both mentally and physically), driven people seeking to make the world a holier and more whole place.
- Halacha and modernity
- Would like to see more on topics that challenge the modern Orthodox Jew with an eye toward how to live a Torah life in the secular world.
- speakers with a modern halacha view point
- Day school costs, LGBT issues, Israel's religious issues
- More Jewish Mysticism, etc..
- More well researched and written English language books from a Modern Orthodox p.o.v.
- A major focus on bringing more speakers and learning options to college campuses
- Classes for people like me with little background except what I have picked up over the years and minimal knowledge of Hebrew. I thought that every one in my synagogue were knowledgeable about tefillah and halacha. I recently learned that's not so. We're in the shadows.
- Learning for adults. What i mean all classes are for adults but are taught like to children its time to get over the story and begin to understand the message of the story.
- More learning opportunities
- Different teachers for classes Better scholar in residences More diversity of classes for family issues
- Learning how to Davenport and follow the siddur.
- Iyun shiurim in gemara / halocha / Rambam
- I want there to be an easy way to learn all of the topics, but in my community, there is no program set up for post highschool learning.
- More context.
- More rabbi hamburger Rav kook Rabbi heschel
- The ability for Many disabled adults who really want to attend services on Shabbat to have a continuous van service which they can board at assigned stops near to their home. Many cannot use nor can afford the Tzomet motorized moped.
- Better Sermons, more meaningful.
- forum for "controversial " speakers...e.g. Yitzchach Greenberg, Tova Hartman etc
- Contemporary issues Issues where two valid sides are presented, as opposed to "this is the law"
- Hebrew language classes
- ethical, controversial challenges we face as modern orthodox jews in daily life

- Speakers that are interesting
- more topics around modern day ethical dilemmas and challenges faced as orthodox jews
- A sensitivity toward shul and davening. Few people seem to care much about either.
- night classes for women
- End of life issues
- Greater emphasis on bringing Jews together, kvod habriyot and ahavat Yisrael. This is especially important for LGBTQ people seeking a place in the Observant world.
- I think there is already plenty out there if you seek it out.
- Higher level of lecture
- Higher level of instruction/lecture as most speakers assume a lower level of Jewish knowledge Than I have
- Wish there was a Gemara class for women in my city; used to go weekly, but the teacher made aliyah
- more teaching of true torah which includes meaning of prayers, love of torah which I believe can lead to more jews loving and caring about each other even though they are different
- i would like to see more and more text based torah she b'al peh classes for women
- Inspiration of Jewish women in tanach
- Inspiration from women in tanach
- Nothing ever resonates with me. I have spent my entire adult life searching for a sefer that engages me. Instead I buy the sefer, I look at it, and put it down. Although - I consider The Taryag Encyclopedia to be a masterpiece. But I often need something else, something spiritua but not flighty.
- The topic of God and what are various meanings of that word for the deep Jewish thinkers. God as a concept is avoided in Orthodox Shuls. Ironic I find.
- Palestinian nationalism
- Something more appropriate to daily life...spirituality and incorporating mindfulness and meditation.
- Address our safety away from shul in case of neighborhood especially aour elderly and our Public Safety
- There is quite a bit available. Need time and energy to take advantage
- More opportunities to gather with all types of Jews in my community and beyond in a social way, with possible Kiruv opportunities for all.
- old lady and hard to navigate stairs in apartment house so this irrelevant, especially since my shul is dying.
- Unfortunately, I do not find our Rabbi to be engaging. It is much easier to listen to almost any topic when a Rabbi can connect with his congregation.
- I wish we had midweek classes. Most if my daily study is online.
- modern approach to contemporary issues
- This may be available but practical applications to modern life of traditional teachings like Pirke Avot.
- More pluralistic programming so that the orthodox can better understand other denominations, even if they don't agree with them.
- Wider range of scholars
- Chasidus
- Hebrew school for adults
- Availability of classes to confined people (like those in nursing homes--my answers to the previous questions were based on my behavior seven years ago before I was wheelchair-mobility confined.
- Beginner ulpan.
- Strengthening Modern Orthodoxy vs. Haredim
- Learning opportunities in the evenings
- yes I would like to see participation by the Jewish community at the shul in Zaben towers which is in the Breman nursing home and attendance is low.
- more podcasts
- In my community in Teaneck, I'd like to see more opportunities to learn practical halakha, particularly around women's issues. As a convert who didn't grow up surrounded by frumkeit, I need to review a lot and do learning about everyday things in order to stay connected and careful in my observance.
- I would like some Hebrew classes to be offered.
- i'd like to see shalom bayis classes FOR Men. These days all i see are shalom bayis classes for women - SINCE WHEN are women solely responsible for shalom bayis? Men should have these classes too. this is sorely needed.
- More on real prayer
- Eliminate "Yeshivish"
- Learning opportunities for adults who lack yeshiva and Jewish schooling....help with reading speed and proficiency as well as understanding more meaning from prayer
- Better speakers
- Halacha taught by women
- More Jewish study related to science and the modern world.
- Laws of lashon harah

- Future of Jewish life, messiah, future of Israel (the country)
- Dealing with issues around the secular community and discussing issues that impact reform and conservative Jews
- Easier audio access (i.e. app that does streaming)
- Classes in learning davening for the Amud, people should know how to daven to maximize the experience and not feel left out because they can't.
- kashrus class
- More English translations from art scroll
- What is a reasonable Jewish Hashkafah on legitimate rabbinic authority and the governance of Jewish communal and national institutions in both the United States and Israel? Are we teaching Jewish History honestly or are we teaching a propagandized history informed by secular Zionists, Agudist, Mizrachists, and the power establishment in Israel or by Jewish self-proclaimed advocacy/social welfare institutions in America?
- Thank G-d, Our beautiful Shul has covered it all.
- Organized times for daily chavrusa learning with a group of men all learning the same topic--NOT DAF YOMI
- funding for torah anytime - i am on that app a lot you torah.org/outorah.org are harder to use
- I'd like to see more Tanach and Parsha classes for women, as opposed to "inspirational" lectures.
- More Mussar, Chesed Shiurim
- A kollel
- Jewish Mystics
- More on child rearing in a Jewish home, woman's hair covering
- more learning opportunities
- More singles events for ages 30-50
- More deep scholarly opportunities for women. I never had the opportunity to learn gemara (I went to Bais Yaakov growing up), and I'd love to have that opportunity now, but there really is none. But even barring gemara, I'd love more in-depth study opportunities in Tanach and other topics.
- Study groups that involve give and take rather than a lecture type setting Some study groups off the beaten track i.e. Halachos of business and related to employee/employer Guide for the Perplexed, Rambam Jewish philosophers
- more basic classes for BT
- Christine Hayes
- I enjoy going everyweek to the Monday night womens shiur. There was one time I was sick & missed Yemima Mizrachi video & wasn't able to watch or download it to view on my own. Is it possible to be able to do watch it by myself?
- More education on topics relevant to women and families.
- More information for late adult ba'al tshuvahs!!!
- More explanations on Holidays and their meanings and practices
- I would like my Shul to be a quiet, sacred experience whenever I attend services, etc. There are too many distractions, noise and very loud children in the Halls.and when We have excellent speakers as well i.
- Classes that help one grow spiritually and engage the modern world,
- A course or info on how all Jews regardless of affiliation on how to get along better with other Jews.
- Yes, engaging speakers and more 1 day intensive workshops and conferences
- Beth Jacob Atlanta and the Kollel have classes almost everyday and I am at a point in life where I can avail myself to them.
- Small structured classes, for autistic Jews.
- Jewish history
- I go to a different Schul for talmud study on Wed.
- More women's and coeducational classes
- An emphasis on Nach, not just for women. Politically: a formal halachic stance of sexual/child abuse, which condemns perpetrators based on Torah principles.
- More about parenting, Jewish mothering in the 21st century
- I don't enjoy basically the whole shul experience. Some have more singing, different pace, etc but essentially the same process. I wish the entire communal experience of coming together was a different process. I would like more learning opportunities that guide us to spiritual and emotional well-being. Almost every single dvar Torah sheds very little on how to integrate the lesson or ideas being given over.
- There is a disassociation between the teens and the Shul. The Shul needs to approach the kids with a similar philosophy to NCSY. The rabbi also assumes that everyone has had a formal Jewish education, however there is an eclectic mix of people many of whom have had little or no education. This should be recognized when giving Drashas. I also feel that there are too many people playing institutional politics.
- More halacha and mussar.

- learning to speak Hebrew
- More opportunities for seniors to meet and socialize.
- Women rabbis being invited to address the entire congregation
- More scholarship
- Topics addressing today's religious issues instead of explanations and rabbinical explanations of past occurrences and derivations of halavahs.
- fluidity of the role of halacha in Jewish life.
- Stop pushing agendas and treat it as an information session.
- The orthodox community is very ignorant on transgender and queer issues, even the most liberal leftist Open Orthodox rabbis make statements that show that, although there is compassion, there is no actual knowledge or study of the issue.
- More language study -- Hebrew, Yiddish
- More skill-based learning in shul, aimed at intermediate level
- A weekly review of the parasha less than 1 hour
- More formal education for Jews that did not grow up religious or converts.
- Many classes are available, but I'm not always free to take them. Possibly a mini series on contemporary Israeli writers.
- Discussion of the disastrous habit of males intermarrying or marrying convenience converts
- Short inspirational/ educational email sent by the shul weekly about a relevant topic possibly related to the parsha
- Meditation for kids, contemplative practice within Jewish settings
- Judaism and Science reconciliation in the modern world
- much is available
- problems related with the outside world
- Possibly more study in gemmorah for layman
- Halacha Imaashe - practical laws reflective of current society - a modern kitchen, new kids actives, women's issues, converts
- I wish there was a site on line that would say the prayers and show the "bowings" and in addition educate me about these prayers. Seeing someone saying the prayers would help me to follow in the Siddur.
- More Orthodox shuls/synagogues all over the USA.
- More young Jewish people in my Shul
- Not sure; many opportunities are available. Taking advantage of them is the limiting factor for me.
- More content that links Jewish thought to modern society. More of Rabbis Jonathan Sacks and David Wolpe.
- Yes but not sure what exactly at this point
- contemporary issues.cultural issues.
- I'd like to see a Talmud class aimed at women. I don't feel like I have the textual skills to keep up with the ones offered at my shul
- Once, the yoetzet came and had a conversation with the women in my town, I think should be done more reguarly and is a valuable service for women. Especially as a newly married women.
- Hashkafa
- More on modern orthodoxy in the modern world
- Refresher Halacha classes (kashrut, Shabbat, daily Halacha, etc...)
- Yes I would like to see more emphasis on Jewish history and the Jewish response to current issues being faced by the larger secular community.
- Weekday daytime classes accessible to women on a reasonably high intellectual level
- More quality English seforim coming out of not just the academic world, but the yeshivish and more traditionally litvish camps
- Inspiration on Women in tanach Encouragement and spiritually related to keeping halachot related to mikva
- Addiction in the frum community, mental health, LGBTQ issues, gender equality
- Lots of learning opportunities already present.
- Classes in interaction of halakhah and economics
- How to get away from the Democratic Party
- chavrusah study..I have tried to do chavrusah and over the years have had chavrsha's unreliable... shul needs to tkae this more seriously
- I'd like to see more programming geared around fleshing out important debates in Modern Orthodoxy.
- Ongoing halahot of Shabbat and family purity/modest dress
- More guest speakers, more subjects focused on women, more relevance to current halachic issues
- Would love a speaker/lecture program.
- I would like o hear non-Orthodox scholars and also non-Jewish ones.
- Speakers Events Trips
- I would like to see an emphasis on the Bible and a deemphasis on Halakha. I would like to see more outreach to world affairs; including Tikkun Olam oriented missions.

- more representation of women in leadership
- Biblical Hebrew
- Hashkafa in light of scientific discovery
- Things related to current events, and American/ Israeli history. Hidden secrets of Torah i.e. Gematria.
- Islamic threat
- Topics on overdoses and how to fix it
- Subjects that deals with life today
- More learning initiatives that have defined start and end times and that bring people together - like everybody studying x.
- more external engaging speakers
- Speakers discussed modern issues/topics and how they relate to Jewish ideas
- An understanding that Judaism is incompatible with homophobia, Islamophobia, and all the other hatreds that so many Jews have.
- something similar to Maharat or the YU GPATS but on a smaller more incremental scale that women can do very part time
- More opportunities for female speakers.
- Grappling with modern-day issues in the context of our texts
- Our synagogue is rich with learning opportunities for adults including learning at the end of davening, evening classes and Shabbat University every other Saturday Shabbat. I also have a few Skype learning with a Rabbi in Israel as well as my own reading efforts.
- Activities, more kabbalah, more Sephardic studies
- more women as serious teachers in the synagogue
- Emphasis on spiritual life and relationship with God
- More programs on Jewish history, teaching of sources and analysis of the development of Jewish customs and their evolution in different communities.
- seminar on the theology of Modern Orthodoxy. Intro to Talmud, it's origin, its value in deciding contemporary. Why can't the black hat community accept MO folk, we all preach achdut but few live it.
- More programs on Jewish history and on the origins and evolution of customs and practices in different Jewish communities.
- I wrongly checked none of the above when it should have been Parsha. I was not allowed to correct my entry.
- Yes- More classes that are FORMAL for women that do not assume we don't have jobs and can come at noon. Other than Shabbat and Sunday there are almost no classes or regular disciplined learning opportunities that are mixed or for women only.
- I would like to see more engagement on the topic of Judaism's relationship with other religions in history and in the world today. In the United States we live, work and go to school with people of other religious traditions. We should be deciding as a community (with guidance from our religious leadership) how we want to approach other faith traditions, what we can learn from them and at least understand our history of relations with them beyond "they tried to kill us."
- I would like to see orthodox community deal with the issues of Torah min-hashamaim from non-juvenile and non-mistical perspective
- There needs to be more programming for people without a yeshiva background or who are uncomfortable with learning Gemarah. My Shul really only offers advances classes, even those that sound basic really require a basic understanding of Gemarah as well as yeshiva terminology, that excludes me and others like me.
- Since you didn't ask for more details in the tefillah section, I would like to clarify here: I find prayer to be important and meaningful, but I often find that the synagogue is not as conducive as it should be to prayer. It is interesting that you ask a question if there should be new or different learning opportunities in shul, but you did not ask a similar question about tefillah.
- More on spirituality
- Dad Yomi daily
- Can't think of anything right now.
- More emphasis on Tanach, less emphasis on gemara
- more issues related to mental health and genetic issues in the jewish population.....
- Classes about the origins and practice of modern orthodoxy
- I'd like to see more accessible Orthodox podcasts. Too many Orthodox podcasts/lectures are given in "yeshivish," which I do not speak. More accessible English language podcasts tend to be Conservative or Reform, which are not my Hashkafa.
- More interactive learning.
- I would like the Jewish community to address the ways we can realistically reach out to young adults and help them connect to being Jewish and connecting to Israel to address adoption and conversion readdress conversions before there was a RCA 20-30 years ago and how using today's standards affected those people who thought they were converted and found out they weren't kosher the effect on families children and

grandchildren who lived their lives as Jews what effort did this have and were there any supports to help them cope and means as they learned these revelations to help them continue to be part of the Jewish community

- How to engage with non-orthodox Jews in a way that is respectful to them and makes them more respectful to those who are orthodox
- Interactive shiurim. Better understanding of modern views of the world--how do we view gay marriage in terms of halacha as well as what seems most humane? Where do women fit into leadership? Why can't we define a portion of our history to a patriarchal worldview and move on from it?
- Fewer scholars in residence and more emphasis on regular weekly study
- Bible and Talmud criticism. Archaeology.
- More singing/kumsitz opportunities and concerts both inside and outside shul.
- Connecting halacha to real life concerns.
- Sophisticated, balanced, non-political presentations.
- Hebrew language -although Shul may not really be appropriate venue. Just lack of such classes in this area.
- Female scholars
- Fewer SIR programs and better local opportunities
- chavrusa
- Halachic History
- Much more concentration on Tanach and less on Gemara.
- Torah/tafilah for the science minded high school child. For both public school kids and as prep for college for yeshivah high school students. Must be taught by someone well educated in science.
- Conceptually I would like a Gemara B'iyun Chaburah. Larger than a chavrutah but smaller than a full shiur
- I think more lectures from women more than rabbis. It's great to see lecture being run by Rabbis but I think it's nice and refreshing to allow women to speak freely about topics that effect women and their daily lives.
- More emphasis on Modern Hebrew and Jewish History.
- More for my kids.
- Jewish philosophical study, including ontology, philosophical psychology and morality and ethics
- kiruv programs in Fair Lawn are needed
- podcasts - supplemental podcasts. I follow the Daf Yomi for women shiur. More opportunities like that would be helpful
- yes there are great speakers i wold love to have but if my shul feels that the speaker won't raise the shul money and/or bring in a large crowd they won't bring that person in. most of the speakers they bring, heard many times, rarely impressed with the caliber of speakers and the learning opportunities. topics with meaning to everyday life would also be terrific and classes need to have broader spectrum of time offered and or taped so that those who work or too tired after work can benefit from the class online
- Review course on kashrut
- seriously dealing with Biblical criticism and other questions that challenge the standard Orthodox viewpoint
- Lectures on women's issues, Israel and current events,
- Teaching of tolerance toward each other no matter what type of Jew you are and reaching of tolerance towards the rest of the world
- More modern approaches to including women where halachically allowed rather than the statement we never did this before. Using a microphone halchicly approved by tzomet so all can hear the davening and not to say we never did this before.
- P.S. I don't attend synagogue due to a physical issues.
- speakers who address the Parsha of the week in respect to current issues
- More interesting learning for women
- I would like to see a more warm, welcoming environment
- More women
- It's difficult finding time to learn working full time with kids and finding a place in the suburbs for women to learn
- More opportunities to learn practical halacha.
- More shiurim in Hebrew/related to contemporary life in Israel and it's religious significance.
- Getting younger families involved
- knowledgeable speakers who produce thoughtful results not apologetics or the standard line
- Role of women.
- More accessible learning opportunities for mothers of young children.
- More halachically oriented resources for topics not normally addressed, like sexual issues in marriage, mental health issues and stigmas
- More attention to women scholars & topics about women

- Women scholars, topics about women, stronger support for Israel
- More classes for women on becoming a better person
- More beginner learning
- The classes offered in my shul are for our general congregation members who are far more advanced than I.
- I would suggest programs similar to the OU program held at Citifield. Perhaps some of the topics addressed there could be further fleshed out in classes at local shules.
- Ulsan type classes
- I think my congregation does a great job in providing opportunities for Jewish studies. There are additional opportunities in nearby congregations that are open to the general public. In addition I meet with a small group of friend on Shabbos to study something related to Tenach.
- Learning opportunities for young adults/couples
- More outside world interface, kids off the derech, environmental
- More sophisticated Tanakh and Gemara studies with the literary-spiritual approach of places like Yeshivat Har Etzion and Drisha
- More on Jewish philosophy particularly, modern Jewish thought.
- The study in most Orthodox shuls that I have attended is geared to those with a Yeshiva or Day School education. Not all of us were so fortunate. I do not want any programs that are "dumbed down", but I would like to see less references to phrases and/or ideas that I do not understand. Perhaps there could be a bit more explanation during a shiur. At least ask if everybody gets the meaning of the phrases.
- More history. More explorations of various topics from both inside and especially outside of Orthodoxy.
- Jewish meditation
- More learning about prayer, ethics in the modern world, lessons about helping the poor and disabled.
- I want to learn the prayers in Hebrew
- Science and medicine in Halacha.
- Weekly Halacha class including women
- More diverse speakers on Israel, Judaim, etc.
- More speakers with modern orthodox views
- Books written for women who work and are not interested solely on being a housewife. Also way too many books about women who 'come back' to judaism, 'leave' judaism...
- Halachah in the workplace for women
- solution-oriented shiurim. Rather than hear everyone complain about the problems in our community, leaders should be sharing practical tips and fixes
- Ethics as they relate to the modern world
- Sefer Orech Apayim Tanna DeBei Eliyahu Searchable Torah books available for free online.
- History and Culture
- engaging speakers for teens/20s
- understanding of the tfilah
- More talmud and the stories behind the parasha
- More Talmud and the stories behind the Parasha
- Out of the box thinkers; history, future, demographics
- In Teaneck if I can't find something in one venue I can find it in another.
- Mental health, suicide, LGBT issues
- What I need I usually find in personal study or with a khevruta.
- Discussing divorce, making divorcees more understood
- more women in leadership roles teaching
- Relationships & Dating
- I think Mussar should be emphasized more, because Judaism is an action based religion. If we don't know the right way to act, everything else is relatively meaningless.
- More philosophy
- ethical behavior in business (no you can not cheat (not report income, bend the rules) the 'goyish' government -- you should not continue to get an aliyah if you have been indicted, wearing an ankle bracelet, been in jail); behave morally when shopping, dealing with stores (no you don't get a special discount because you are Jewish and the store owner is Jewish -- the owner has to make a living/don't ask them and yell at them when they say no --- and no you can not yell and scream at the non-Jewish store personnel because they will not take back your 2 year old used and damaged item) It is a real shanda on the goyim when they see how orthodox jews behave in commerce. Many Jewish store owners have told me that non-jewish store employees when witnessing this behavior have quit and said they will never work with Jews again; or get the picture that 'religious' Jews are morally and ethically bankrupt
- I would learn more about what women are allowed to do according to hachah- not only what women are allowed to do according to minhag
- Jewish history

- More serious shiurim, aimed specifically at people with serious learning background. The current offerings in my shul and community in general, for that matter, are more generally directed.
- More women guest speakers
- My shul is proactive in this area
- Shabbos and Yom Tov kitchen laws.
- More deep thinkers like Rabbi Sachs
- Nice to have to some crash courses and refresher on common daily and shabbos Halacha. Just reviewing basic things to do and not to do during regular everyday and Shabbat life.
- I think Jewish history is not studied as much as it should be. People do not remember the past and that is very bad.
- perhaps some courses on Jewish philosophy and on the history of religious Zionism, particularly in Israel.
- Women shiurim that do not sound condescending
- More programs for couples to attend together.
- more inclusion of people with disabilities
- Our rabbi has started one class in women's halacha this year. it's on shabbat and for about 45 minutes. I'd like to see a deeper look into women's issues in halacha. As far as speakers, I'd like to see more speakers visiting on Shabbat, talking about topics on spiritual growth and how to keep a connection to Hashem, while balancing life in the modern world.
- If there is such a thing as a Rabbi who is willing to do more than just regurgitate what he was told and to think outside of the box within an orthodox framework.
- Learning how to apply Jewish laws in a spiritual way to enhance everyday living
- Speakers with more experience on modern day issues related to science or modern society
- Weekly class on davening/siddur
- More and higher level women's classes to be available during the week.
- Social justice, environment
- We should be learning more Chosen Mishpat and Even haEzer so that we can begin the modern issues we face. These include conversion, in vitro fertilization, divorce, time of death. These are real and more important to our children than how much G/d has financially blessed or where we might vacation next year.
- more cultural diversity, other kinds of Jews besides Ashkenaz
- Women speakers
- Would like to see more classes available on laws of Shabbos/Yom Tov and more how to/practical Halakhah for day to day life. Also, would like to see a program for post Beginner's that teaches Baal T'Shuva members how to daven beyond Beginner's Level.
- More commentaries in English on the weekly portion and the holidays in a well-written sophisticated manner. I find recent ArtScroll, Feldheim and other imprints insulting to my intelligence, poorly written with respect to vocabulary and grammar, hateful messages against "other" groups showing a lack of openness to the world at large, errors in writing about historical facts.
- Classes on how to pray, follow the Siddur. Talmud classes for women
- Beginner levels. Every synagogue assumes all are familiar and know all topics. Introducing basics is important for all to follow
- Taking care of someone less fortunate
- historicity of the Bible
- Connecting with God instead of the rabbis.
- Hilchot shabbat refresher Taharat hamishpacha refresher and discussions on how it changes as you age
- The actual Halacha regarding women in leadership roles
- Study in the O community is very narrow. Rarely challenging, and often intellectually shallow. The YU 'to go' publications illustrate this. I would like to see much more non-textual opportunities; and many more female teachers and speakers.
- More emphasis on helping fellow congregants.
- Programs dealing with: -growing anti-semitism; - combating addictions of all kinds; -Rabbis communications w community members
- How to learn, over view of halachic process, proper speech, conduct in shul, how to find a higher spirituality, how to meet and socialize with no so young people who have a keen interest in Torah studies and not caught up in daily politics but want to focus on self improvement.