



Wednesday Evenings

(Full calendar can be found on the last page of this program guide)

Weekly Schedule

- ❖ 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM - Dinner
- ❖ 6:45 PM – 7:30 pm – Electives
- ❖ 7:30-7:45 pm – Break
- ❖ 7:45 pm – 8:30 – Core Learning Experiences

Location

- ❖ Autumn Trimester: Temple Emanuel
- ❖ Winter Trimester: Beth El Congregation
- ❖ Spring Trimester: Temple Emanuel

Core Learning Experiences

8th Grade – Who Am I

The 8th grade experience will focus on a post bnai mitzvah Jewish existence. Students will explore what their connection is to Judaism and the Jewish people moving forward after having been Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Where does their Jewish self fit into the larger picture of who they are? What aspects of Judaism do they connect with the most and what aspect of Judaism do they struggle with the most? The core experiences will focus on addressing these essential questions and other related questions about identity and being Jewish.

- Trimester 1
 - a. **#MyJewishSnapShot**

We live in a world filled with images. Whether you are instagramming, snapping, or streaming Netflix, thousands of images are being presented to you every day, each telling a unique story. Now it is YOUR turn to do the storytelling! You will be on the other side of the lens. Get creative and craft new images that tell the story of Jewish values and customs. Get ready to tell your story through images! – Rabbi Jessica Locketz

 - i. Jewish Value = Uniqueness of every being human (Adam Achad)



- Trimester 2:
 - a. **Two Jews, Three Opinions: Can Jews Be Unified Without Being Uniform** One pious Jew was stranded on a desert island and built two synagogues. When rescued, the crew members asked, “There was only you and your limited resources, so why two places to worship?” The Jew answered, “One was for me to pray in. The other one I wouldn’t be caught dead in.” Jews come in many different shapes, colors, and sizes. Where do we agree and where do we disagree and why? – Rabbi Alex Greenbaum
 - i. Jewish Value = Solidarity (Al Tifrosh Min Hatsibur)
- Trimester 3:
 - a. **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**

There is so much to do as a teen: social media, friends, sleep, school, family...how can we be expected to fit all of this in? “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” is a system designed to help you do it all. Uncover the habits with film, food, experience, and conversation. – Chris Herman

 - i. Jewish Value = All people are created in God’s image (b’tzelem Elohim)

9th Grade – To What Am I Connected

The 9th grade experience will focus on how students feel connected to different people and groups of people. As students enter high school and now have various different experiences and networks to which they can connect, we will explore the tension between being Jewish in a predominantly secular society.

- Trimester One
 - **Better Together**

We live busy lives and belong to many different groups or communities, but what does it actually mean to be a part of a community? How do we choose the communities that we are a part of and how do our communities influence who we are? – Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

 - Jewish Value = Community (Kehillah)
- Trimester Two
 - **Cool Jew: The Ultimate Guide for Every Member of the Tribe**

Celebrate every aspect of who you are. Decode contemporary Judaism and its lit cultural and creative expression. Cover everything from identity, rituals, clothing and cuisine, to holidays, spirituality, diversity, and language. Jew got questions? Jew got answers! – Rabbi Jessica Locketz

 - Jewish Value = Community Mindfulness (Areyvut)



- Trimester Three
 - **Wherever You Go There's Always Someone Jewish**

Encounters with other Jews and discoveries of Jewish connections are intriguing because they remind us that we are part of something bigger, that our family extends beyond our family tree to include a community we feel connected to but do not know personally. The bond created between Jews by shared history and experience is called peoplehood. Transform yourself into a Jew from another part of the world to discover how we are all connected. – Barak Naveh

 - All Jews are interconnected (Kol Yisrael areyvim zeh ba zeh)

10th Grade – For Whom Am I Responsible

The 10th grade will focus on how students can live Jewish values every day through our actions and interactions with other people by understanding our sense of responsibility to all aspects of the world in which we live.

- Trimester One
 - **Mister Rodger's Neighborhood**

The Torah commands us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Because humanity was created in the image of G-d, b'tzelem Elohim, we show disrespect for G-d when we show disrespect to our fellow human beings. Hence, we are obligated to treat everyone with respect. Judaism teaches us to celebrate each individual's uniqueness and affirm their divine worth. But how do we do this? In the age of social media and being socially pressure among our peers, how can we navigate the tension between being liked and doing what's right? Are they mutually exclusive? – Barak Naveh

 - Jewish Value = Love your neighbor (friend) like yourself (V'ahavta l'reyecha kamocho)
- Trimester Two
 - **You + Me = Us**

Responsibility is one of the most important values to cultivate in one's soul. To take responsibility means to cultivate the "ability" for response to an "other." This responsibility to another is born in the moment where no one else is present to assist. As Hillel said (Avot 2:6) "uveemkom sh'ain anashim hishtadail lihiyot ish": in a place where there aren't people of moral courage taking responsibility, one needs to step up. What is our moral responsibility to one another and how can we actively step up to make the world a better place? - Barak Naveh

 - Jewish value = Social Responsibility (Achrayut)



- Trimester Three
 - **Be The Change**

We are living in a world faced with huge social challenges. More than ever teens are becoming involved in this issues and raising their voice to make a difference. In this experience, students will learn how to speak up for what they believe in and take an active role in making a difference. Students will have the opportunity to attend the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), where they will have the opportunity to impact our country as they share their views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill. – Rabbi Jessica Locketz & Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

 - Jewish Value = Doing righteousness (Tzedek tzedek tirdof)

Trimester One Electives

Weeks 1-4

- **March for Our Lives & Gun Violence in School**

March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students of all backgrounds and identities across the country. Students are taking an active role to stop the epidemic of mass shootings. Explore how Jewish values are intertwined with the March for Our Lives Movement. – Barak Naveh
- **Reconstructionist , Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Oh My!**

Why is the modern Jewish landscape so confusing? Why are there so many different types of Jews? What does it all mean? Students will explore the different denominations and types of Jews living in our community today, how we are similar, and where we differ. – Rabbi Alex Greenbaum
- **Improv Workshop**

During this four week improv class, we will focus on bringing out the best improviser and person in you. We will specifically focus on communication skills, thinking quickly, working as a team, and much more. – Facilitated by a local improv troupe



Weeks 5-8

- **Off to the Races**
Exploring the everyday issues at the center of the Midterm elections and why they matter. – Rabbi Jessica Locketz
- **What Did You Really MEME?**
Memes are everywhere, ready to instantly make you laugh! Let's explore the power and meaning of memes in today's digital culture, touching on the topics of stereotypes, identity, and culture. – Chris Herman
- **They Made a Difference**
Learn stories of famous Jewish heroes, both of old and new. Learn how their courageous acts of bravery helped saved Jewish people or pave the way for history. – Barak Naveh

Trimester Two Electives

Weeks 1-4

- **#MeToo & Vashti Too**
You might call Vashti the first #MeToo survivor she was banished by her husband, the Persian King Ahasuerus, for refusing his order to display herself wearing her crown in front of his male guests. What other women in our tradition were #MeToo survivors and what can their stories teach us. - Rabbi Jessica Locketz
- **The Untold Story of Hanukkah**
We have all heard the tale of how the Maccabees defeated the Greeks and how enough oil for one night lasted eight nights. But most of us don't know the behind the scene story of Hanukkah: a civil war among the Jews. How did this civil war play out? – Rabbi Alex Greenbaum
- **The Art of Storytelling**
You are invited to take a journey on the art of Jewish storytelling. On this journey, you will learn the art and skill of performative storytelling, exploring the ancient stories, personal narrative and techniques on discovering your own unique storytelling voice. – Barak Naveh



Weeks 5-8

- **Bible Raps**
Do you have what it takes to be the next great rapper? You will be working through Torah called Mussar. You'll treat your spiritual traits like muscles to exercise to become better people. You'll explore the text and meanings and then write bars, drop a sick beat, and create a rap music video for the ages! – Matt Bar (Executive Director of Bible Raps)
- **Game Night**
Games like Cards Against Humanity, Monopoly and The Game of Life have provided countless hours of hilarious entertainment. But what can we learn about power, privilege, and responsibility through playing these types of games? – Barak Naveh

Trimester 3

Weeks 1-4

- **Being a Jew on Campus Workshop**
A recent study found that there has been a rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel rhetoric on college campuses. This workshop will probe issues that have challenged Jewish students at colleges and universities around the country and better prepare you for what to expect and how to address these challenges. – Barak Naveh
- **Jewish Geography**
Who are my people and where did they come from? You'll explore genealogy, immigration, and lineage among the Jewish People. What's the difference between Ashkenazi and Sephardic? You'll even have the opportunity to take your own Ancestry Genealogy test through 23andme.com. (An additional fee of \$25 per student) – Rabbi Jessica Locketz
- **A Taste of Jerusalem**
A Jewish & Muslim Cooking Class: Jews and Muslims share many values and customs. Chief among them is food. The sharing of bread has been a way to break down barriers throughout the millennia. How can food be the unifying force in our much needed relationship? Discover how in this cooking class, making foods shared in our traditions. – Melinda Freed

Weeks 5-8

- **Israeli Graffiti Workshop**
How is graffiti done? How is it used to make a statement? How has it become a part of Israeli society? In this workshop, you will explore why graffiti is so popular in Israel and how artists use it to make a statement. You'll also make your own graffiti mural! – Rabbi Jessica Locketz & Graffiti Artist



- **Devils, Angels and Spirits**

Do Jews believe in vampires? Do we have good angels who protect us? Learn the answers to these and other issues of Jewish spirituality and Kabbalah. – Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

- **Can You Give Me a Hand: Addressing Mental Health**

Approximately 1 in 5 youth worldwide will experience a mental illness before they turn 25. Many will experience significant and substantial life challenges that may require help. This makes adolescence a critical time for mental health promotion, prevention, early identification, and intervention. In four sessions, you will learn how to optimize and maintain good mental health, understand different types of mental disorders, decrease stigma, and understand how to support others in times of mental health crisis. – Barak Naveh

Modern Hebrew

Hebrew has been the “official” language of the Jewish People for thousands of years. If you want to feel a part of that people, and get what they are about, there is no more direct way than to speak the language of our people. J Line South Hills is offering a weekly beginners Modern Hebrew class taught by Karen Morris.

J Line South Hills Hebrew teens take Hebrew on Tuesday afternoons (7 PM – 8:30 PM). There will be a total of 24 sessions throughout the year.

Cost: \$400 for the entire year or \$250 per semester



2018-2019 8th – 10th Grade Calendar

Trimester 1

- Sept 12 – Session 1
- Sept 26 – Session 2
- Oct. 3 – Session 3
- Oct. 10 – Session 4
- Oct. 17 – Session 5
- Oc. 24 – session 6
- Nov. 7 – Session 7
- Nov. 14 – Session 8

Trimester 2

- Nov. 28 – Session 1
- Dec. 5 – Special Programming Hanukkah Celebration
- Dec 12 - Session 2
- Dec. 19 – Session 3
- Jan. 9 – Session 4
- Jan. 23 – Session 5
- Jan. 30 – Session 6
- Feb. 6 – Session 7
- Feb 13 – Session 8

Trimester 3

- Feb. 20 – Session 1
- Feb 27 – Session 2
- Mar 6 – Session 3
- March 13 – Session 4
- Mar 27 – Session 5
- Apr 3 – Session 6
- Apr 10 – Session 7
- Arp 17 – Session 8