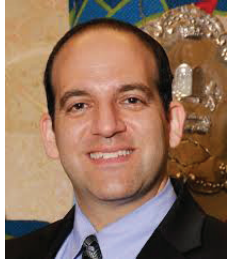




J Line South Hills Program Guide 2020-21





*Rabbi Alex Greenbaum
Beth El Congregation*

B'shalom,

We hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy and getting along well at home. As we prepare for another year of J Line South Hills to begin this fall, we do so under challenging and ever-changing circumstances. Working together to understand these challenges and keeping the safety and well-being of each participant as our highest priority, the J Line South Hills staff has worked hard to prepare a safe and meaningful J Line South Hills experience to begin at the end of September 2020. The J Line South Hills fall trimester will occur virtually. As the year continues to progress, we will continue to reevaluate the J Line South Hills experience for the winter and spring trimesters

Orientation and Information Session

There will be a J Line South Hills orientation on Wednesday, September 2 from 7–8 pm to discuss the most up-to-date J Line South Hills information such as calendar, Wednesday evening schedule, policies and procedures that will be in place as well as answer any questions that participants and parents may have about the J Line South Hills experience.

Registration and Payment

Registration for J Line South Hills will occur by trimester. Registering for the full year will not be an option at this time. We also understand that this is a challenging financial time for many families and communities so we have changed the registration fee. Virtually programming has reduced our need to pay for some of our normal expenses such as overhead, building, food, and program supplies. The registration fee for the fall trimester will be \$100, saving families \$125 from the regular registration fee. We will not be processing any payments for J Line South Hills until after our orientation on September 2 when we can provide you with the most up-to-date information about what the J Line South Hills experience will look like. We are also happy to work with each family around the payment of J Line South Hills.

Program Guide

In this J Line South Hills Program guide, you will find the full curriculum for the entire 2020-2021 J Line South Hills experience. J Line South Hills will continue to take place on Wednesday evenings with updated core learning experiences and brand new electives crafted with you in mind. We have not yet determined what virtual platform we will be using to conduct our classes. These challenging times may require us to make ongoing modifications to the J Line South Hills experience to best ensure we operate as safely and responsibly as possible on behalf of our participants, our staff, their families, and the broader community.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to seeing you in September!



*Hannah Kalson
J Line
JCC of Greater Pittsburgh*



*Rabbi Jessica Locketz
Temple Emanuel*

Dates

J Line South Hills Orientation

September 2
7-8 PM

Fall Trimester

September 30
October 7, 14, 21, 28
November 4, 11, 18

Winter Trimester

December 2, 9, 16
January 6, 20, 27
February 3, 10

Spring Trimester

February 17, 24
March 3, 10, 17, 24
April 7, 14

Wednesday Evening Schedule

6:15-6:45 PM
Dinner

6:45-7:30 PM
Electives

7:30-7:45 PM
Break

7:45-8:30 PM
Core Learning Experiences

Autumn

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 1-4)

Rock the Vote Hannah Kalson

Pssst, have you heard? There's a presidential election happening in 2020, and the youngest generation of voters is expected to play a key role in who assumes the Oval Office. One in 10 eligible voters will be members of Gen Z (aged 18 to 23 at the time of the election), up from just four percent in 2016. This slice of the electorate is more ethnically and racially diverse than older generations, is more accepting of same-sex marriage and gender fluidity, and believes government should be doing more to solve Americans' problems. We will explore the core issues in this Presidential election and connect them to Jewish values and ethics.

What Did You Really MEME? Chris Herman

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.

Making Connections Barak Naveh

The world seems to be changing so fast and we are inundated with headlines online, on our phones and on television. Often, these headlines and stories are hard to understand and even harder to put into perspective. But, understanding history, can help you sort out and process the information. This class will go back in time to show, from a historical perspective (and often a Jewish perspective), what caused the events we are dealing with today. Students will leave class each night with a clearer understanding of why we are where we are and how we got there!

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 4-8)

Jewish Fashion Alex Malanych

It has been said that clothes make the person—while you might disagree, clothing has certainly been an important part of what makes Jews recognizably Jewish. In this elective we will explore just where some of our fashion trends come from and what Judaism has to say about our strongest suit.

The Ethics of Auschwitz Rabbi Jessica & Rabbi Alex

A dying Nazi soldier asks a Jew in a concentration camp for forgiveness? 53 distinguished men and women respond to this question. What would you have done in his place?

SNL Barak Naveh

Saturday Night Live has been making people laugh for decades. The show boasts a Jewish creator, Jewish writers and cast members, and plenty of Jewish material. But what is a Jewish joke, who can make it, and what impact, if any, does it have on us as Jews? Dive into the vast world of skits, songs, and reactions that make up Jewish SNL.

CORE LEARNING

8th Grade Identity & Intersectionality Hannah Kalson

Diversity, empowerment, and people finding the confidence to be their full and true selves by making their own rules is a growing trend.

9th Grade Mister Rogers Neighborhood Barak Naveh

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?

10th Grade Being a Jewish Adult

Confirmation constitutes an individual and group affirmation of commitment to the Jewish people. But what does it mean to affirm a commitment to the Jewish People? What do we want that to look like for ourselves and what is expected of us? Explore the questions you have about Jewish life and the commitments you want to make now and in the future about your Jewish identity.

Winter

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 1-4)

Digi-Tal(mud): Jewish Coding before the WWW **Alex Malanych**

Long before the World Wide Web came to be, rabbis and Jewish scholars were creating texts that act a lot like websites—creating connections and “links” between Torah, other writing, and their everyday lives. Together, we will learn about how the sages designed their pages to discuss the world around them and design our own digital versions with the basics of HTML and CSS!

Jewish Taboo: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll **Rabbi Alex Greenbaum**

What else needs to be said? Can Jews? Should Jews? Would Jews? Rabbi Alex will challenge your assumptions and help you explore the shouldas, wouldas, and couldas of Jewish living.

Café Aroma **Barak Naveh**

How can young Israelis afford the rising cost of housing in Israel, or the decline in social services like health and education? Should the Ultra-Orthodox be exempt from serving in the military? Should there be mandatory service in the military at all? Explore the hottest topics today for someone living in Israel. When Israelis sit down for coffee with friends, what do they debate about?

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 4-8)

Jewish Big Questions **Rabbi Alex Greenbaum**

Is God real? Is the Bible true? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why pray? What’s the meaning of life? Why So Many Rules? Why Be Jewish?

The Notorious RBG **Hannah Kalson**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the first Jewish female justice on the U.S Supreme Court and an icon to people all over the world. But how did the woman born Joan Ruth Bader become the Notorious RBG? In this experience, students will explore RBG’s early life and education, her remarkable professional journey, and her impact on US politics, popular culture, and the Jewish community

Being Jewish in Public School **Barak Naveh**

We will explore what it means to be Jewish in a Christian majority when it comes to holidays, racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism. You will have opportunities to share stories and problem solve as together we will figure out how to remain proud Jews in a non-Jewish world.

CORE LEARNING

8th Grade **The Good Place** **Chris Herman**

What on the surface is a comedy about heaven and hell is actually a deeply philosophical adventure. One of the many topics covered in the show is the notion that just performing good deeds to get into the Good Place doesn’t count. You have to act morally for its own sake, rather than out of a desire to attain a reward. Just like in The Good Place, in Judaism doing good things purely to get a reward doesn’t really count as good. So why do we do good things? What are the mitzvot in the Torah meant to teach us or represent?

9th Grade **Cool Jew: The ultimate guide for every member of the tribe** **Barak Naveh**

Celebrate every aspect of who you are. Decode contemporary Judaism and its cultural and creative expression. Dive into everything from identity, rituals, clothing and cuisine, to holidays, spirituality, diversity, and language. Jew got questions? Jew got answers.

10th Grade **Be The Change**

We are living in a world faced with huge social challenges. More than ever teens are becoming involved in these 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 an impact our country as they share their views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill.

Spring

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 1-4)

Jewish Cooking: Jewish Food from Around the world

What, exactly, is Jewish food? Some would say it's any food eaten by Jews, or any food that's kosher. For many, it's the foods of one's own culture (i.e. Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi, etc.) – especially traditional Shabbat and holiday fare—that register as specifically “Jewish.” Explore what makes food Jewish as we celebrate Jewish food as amazingly diverse, international, diaspora-driven cuisine.

Jewish Art Alex Malanich

Who exactly was Bezalel? Why don't we have any pictures of G-d? What exactly is the deal with the chamsa? Whether secular or sacred, Jews have been making art for millennia and a multitude of reasons. Together we will take a look at some of the most important Jewish artists and symbols from Bible to Brooklyn and think about what values color Jewish life from generation to generation.

They Made a Difference Barak Naveh

Learn stories of famous Jewish heroes, both old and new. Learn how their courageous acts of bravery helped saved Jewish people or pave the way for history.

ELECTIVES (WEEKS 4-8)

HSMTMTS! High School Musical The Musical: The Series Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Welcome back to East High and Disney+'s mockumentary musical drama web television series. Where we'll discuss scenes and songs and their Jewish take.

Repair the World

Repair the World Pittsburgh was founded in 2013 to mobilize Jews and their communities to take action to pursue a just world. We work to build relationships, show up with long-time friends and neighbors, and address local needs including food justice, education justice, and more, through service based in Jewish values. Our J Line South Hills experience will explore *tikkun olam* in the South Hills.

Game Night Barak Naveh

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?

CORE LEARNING

8th Grade #MyJewishSnapShot Rabbi Jessica Locketz

We live in a world filled with images. Whether you are Tik Toking, 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, and to tell YOUR story!

9th Grade Wherever you go, there's always someone Jewish Barak Naveh

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.

10th Grade 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, 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?

On a Journey to Explore

8TH GRADE: WHO AM I

Our 8th grade experience focuses on a post B'nai Mitzvah Jewish existence. Students will explore their connection 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.

9TH GRADE: TO WHAT AM I CONNECTED

Our 9th grade experience focuses 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 of being Jewish in a predominantly secular society.

10TH GRADE: TO WHOM AND WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE

Our 10th grade experience focuses on how students can live Jewish values every day through their actions and interactions with others by understanding their sense of responsibility to all aspects of the world in which we live.

REGISTRATION INFO

All registration and payment information and processes can be found at: [JCCPGH.org/jlinesh](https://jccpgh.org/jlinesh)

Tuition

- Registration will be taken for each trimester
- Fall trimester registration fee is \$100
- 10th-grade Confirmation requires a full year commitment

For questions about registration:

Ariel DiFelice, Operations and Engagement Manager
adifelice@jccpgh.org
412-697-3518

For questions about curriculum:

Chris Herman, Teen Division Director
cherman@jccpgh.org or
412-339-5395

Other Opportunities

J-Serve: Grades 6-12—April 11, 2021

J-Serve Pittsburgh is a teen-led day of Jewish community service, attended annually by more than 300 teens throughout the greater Pittsburgh Area. J-Serve takes place in more than 90 cities around the world every year, and Pittsburgh has one of the largest events in North America. Volunteers can choose from more than 15 traditional direct service opportunities, as well as special advocacy and community engagement workshops centered on issues that matter to teens.

J-Serve is planned by a teen steering committee of 10th-12th graders. For more information about applying to the steering committee, or to join the J-Serve mailing list, contact Hannah Kalson at hkalson@jccpgh.org. J Serve Pittsburgh is a partnership of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Repair the World: Pittsburgh, BBYO, and the Volunteer Center of the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh

The Samuel M. Goldston Teen Philanthropy Project: grades 9-12

The new Samuel M. Goldston Teen Philanthropy Project is a pilot program for 9th-12th graders, focused on what giving looks like in theory and practice. A cohort of teens will explore philanthropy as a Jewish concept as they engage with local organizations to build a better tomorrow.

For more information, contact Alex Malanych, amalanych@jccpgh.org 412-697-3233

Diller Teen Fellows: Grades 10-11

Diller Teen Fellows program is an immersive leadership program inviting a select group of Jewish teens from 6 continents and 32 communities to step up, lead their communities, and repair the world. The depth of the program, global engagement, and a focus on experiential learning create an enduring impact on participants and their families, building leaders with the power to change the world.

For more information, contact dillerooffice@jccpgh.org or 412-697-3233