



Havurat Torah Courses Fall 2018 | 5779

Dinner: 6:30-7pm

First Period:

7-7:40 pm

7th Grade Special Seminar:

This year, the focus of 7th grade learning will be building "Jewish literacy" through exploration of some of Judaism's essential teachings, texts, ideas, and practices. The topics the class study include Birkat Hamazon (Grace after Meals), Shmirat Halashon (watching our words), Jewish theology, Jewish teachings about the afterlife, and Jewish holidays from an adult perspective. The 7th grade will also identify defining moments and milestones in their own Jewish and secular lives.

During the year, we will explore a variety of topics, among them: finding meaning in the B'nai Mitzvah process, Jewish identity, friendship, peer pressure, and other challenges of navigating early adolescence—from a Jewish perspective.

Educators: Community Educators Arielle Richman and Rachel Glickenstein

Grades 8-10 Course Offerings:

Kosher Foodie

Join in the fun as we explore the role food plays in Judaism, and the role Judaism plays in food. We will cook "Jewishly" (and learn what that means), and explore Jewish values that pertain to cooking. We'll look at traditional and contemporary approaches to Kashrut, eco-kashrut, our responsibility towards the community regarding hunger, as well as our responsibilities to our bodies and ourselves.

Educator: Avi Marcovitz, Director of Family Engagement

Personal Jewish Mystical Exploration

The course will trace the evolution of authentic Jewish mystical practices from the biblical period through modern times. The visions of Ezekiel and Isaiah, Talmudic teachings, Sefer Yetzirah, Zohar, Lurianic Kabbalah and 20th century Jewish Renewal will be explored. The class will also include several guided meditations to help center and concretize the teachings. Come discover your inner mystic!

Educator: Rabbinic Intern Mitchell Blank

The Jewish Justice League:

Our world is plagued with injustice, and the Torah has something to say about it. From oppression of minorities and immigrants to environmental damage, from caring for those who are poor or disabled to freeing the enslaved, from fairness to animals to fairness in business and in war, the Torah has much to teach us on these matters and many others. In this course we will explore contemporary issues of injustice and study Jewish ethical texts that inform our thinking about them. We will discuss what we ourselves could do to help resolve these issues and learn about the work of organizations currently addressing them. After each month we will have a speaker on the issue we've studied. You will have a chance to help pick topics and will be supported in organizing your own justice projects around issues you're passionate about. Join us to find your voice and do justice Jewishly.

Educator: Rabbinic Fellow Ariana Capptauber

From Westchester to Israel: 11th & 12th Grade Special Israel Seminar

The State of Israel is in its 71st year, and what a blessing for us to experience this modern-day miracle! Israel has done more in its seven decades than many countries have done in centuries. With that comes growing pains. How has Israel handled the absorption of Jewish immigrants from around the world? What is the economic forecast in the country? How does Israel deal with issues of racism, sexism, and pluralism? What is it like growing up knowing that you will be drafted in the army at age 18? What is it like to live in a country where your neighbors don't recognize your right to exist?

We will examine these, and many other topics, as we also assess how Israel is an integral part of our Jewish identity in the Diaspora. What will being pro-Israel on college campuses look like, and what advice is there to help navigate those waters? Join us as we take a deep dive into all things Israel.

We will also get you ready for the big trip in February!

Educators: Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Rabbi Matt Futterman, and Cantor Melissa Berman, with guest appearances from our *Shinshinim*.

Second Period:

7:45-8:25

"I am a Leader"

Our world is in need of more great young leaders. This year's US midterm elections in November will showcase some of these young rising stars hoping to impact our society in positive ways. Our teenage years are a great time to begin thinking about leadership and what qualities make for a good leader. What is Judaism's perspective on leadership as a virtue, and how does our tradition define good leadership?

Together, we will answer these questions, and many more. We will also explore leadership styles through real life experiences and team building exercises, thus developing leadership skills to be put to good use as you embark on a path to assume greater roles in your communities, from USY, school, camp, Havurat Torah, and other areas of your life.

Educator: Rachel Glickenstein, Community Educator

Wonder Women

From RBG to Gal Gadot, from Princess Diana to Queen Esther, this class will explore the often overlooked impact and role of women throughout history. We'll focus on the personal achievements of historical women, the examination of individual and groups of women of historical significance, and the effect that historical events have had on women and women on historical events.

Educator: Avi Marcovitz, Director of Family Engagement

Conversational Hebrew with a Twist of Deconstruction.

This class will further develop Hebrew proficiency, mostly by conversation amongst members of the class. The twists in deconstruction will occur when words with interesting roots come up in conversation; further exploration of these roots will strengthen our language comprehension. For example, "I am fluent in Hebrew." is *השפה שגור בפני*, literally "The language flows in my lips", The root *שגר* also forms the word *שגריר*, which means ambassador, a fluent person. In biblical Hebrew, *שגר בהמה* is the first born out of the womb since it "flowed" first.

Deconstruction can be so much fun!

Educator: Rabbinic Intern Mitch Blank

Relationship Torah:

When encountering problems in relationships with our families, siblings, friends or romantic partners we often seek advice from people we trust, or sometimes from magazines and advice books. Jewish sources also have a lot of wisdom to share about our experiences with family, friends, and with our sexuality. They're full of advice gathered by people encountering some of the same situations over hundreds and even thousands of years. We'll look at stories and laws from the Torah, rabbinic literature and contemporary Jewish voices weighing in on how we should love and interact with one another: what to do about jealousy with a sibling, or anger at a parent, or romantic interest in a stranger, or a broken heart. Conversations will encourage us to think deeply about our own lives and relationships, while remaining respectful. Join us to learn

some Jewish wisdom in the area we often need it most: when figuring out to navigate our relationships.

Educator: Rabbinic Fellow Ariana Capptauber

*For 10th-12th graders only

TICreate

What's the first word that comes to mind when you hear the words, "Jewish art"? A beautiful mezuzah, Kiddush cup, or other ritual object? Intricate Hebrew calligraphy? Stunning stained glass windows? If you had any of these thoughts or just love being creative, this elective is for you. We will draw inspiration from Jewish texts to explore different art forms and Jewish artists, and we will use what we learn as the foundation to design and produce pieces to be incorporated into our TIC community holiday events as well as for our own personal use! No prior knowledge or experience is necessary, just be ready to learn and create together!

Educator: Arielle Richman, Community Educator