Kol HaLev Religious School Bet Class Syllabus, 2020-2021
Maia Meeron, Teacher

The overarching theme is how to be a *mensch* and be kind. Students will be able to re-tell the *Torah* stories; explain meanings of holidays; state the purpose of community and synagogue and identify symbols, objects, and people’s roles in the synagogue; explain what Israel is and some characteristics of the country; say the sounds of the Hebrew alphabet and vowels; and recite some basic Hebrew blessings and prayers in a group recitation.

**9/13**
What kind of person are you/will you be?
Humans are created in the image of Divine (*B’Tselem Elohim*), we are each unique (*Adam Yahid*), Diversity, guarding speech (*Shmirat HaLashon*), using the Creation story and Holy Days of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*

**10/4**
How do we treat creation?
Guardians of the earth (*Shomrei Adamah*), Love of all living beings (*Ahavat haBriyot*), Gratitude (*Hodaya*), Review welcoming guests (*Hachnasat Orchim*), using the Creation and Noah stories and the holiday of *Sukkot*

**10/18**
How do we relate to the universe, the Divine?
Commandment, obligation (*Mitsvah*), Covenant (*Brit*), Ethical treatment of animals (*Tsa’ar Ba’alei Chayim*), using the Noah story and the holiday of *Simchat Torah*

**11/8**
How do we relate in our Jewish community? How do we do our relationship with the Great Mystery?
Community, doing our share, cooperating (*Kehillah*), while exploring the synagogue, its purpose, parts, and people, and the three types of prayer: petition, thanks, and praise

**11/22**
How do we learn in a Jewish way?
Learning (*Talmud Torah*) and ritual (*Shabbat*) in community, asking questions, and exploring Jewish text: how the Torah is made and the structure of *Tanakh* (5 books, prophets, psalms)
12/6
How do we treat other people?
Justice (*Tsedek*), not oppressing and fighting oppression where it exists, Bravery (*Omets Lev*), using the story and holiday of *Chanukah*

12/20
How do we speak?
Guarding speech (*Shmirat haLashon*), words have power and they matter, communicating clearly, through the story of the Tower of Babel

1/10
How do we not destroy the gifts we have been given?
Do not destroy (*Ba’al Tashchit*) and revisiting Covenant (*Brit*), through the story of Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham and Sarah

1/24
How do we take care of our earth?
Environmentalism (*Haganat haTevah*) and revisiting Guardians of the earth (*Shomrei Adamah*) and Do not destroy (Ba’al Tashchit) through the holiday of *Tu biShvat*

2/7
How do we honor new life? How do we reconcile in the midst of conflict?
Forgiveness (*Slichah*) and *Brit Milah*/Naming Ceremonies through the story of Jacob and Esau

2/21
What do we do when faced with badness?
Do not be passive in the face of violence (*Lo Ta’amod al Dam Re’acha*) and revisiting Bravery (*Omets Lev*) through the story of Esther and the holiday of *Purim*

3/7
How do we create peace?
Peace in the home (*Shalom Bayit*) and Honesty (*Yosher*) through the story of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

3/21
How do we respond to our own mistreatment? What do we do when we are mistreated?
We were slaves and strangers in Egypt (*Avadim Hayinu b’Mitsrayim*), so we know suffering, and should not cause anyone else to suffer, we must empathize, and revisit Justice (*Tsedek*) and Repair of self and the world (*Tikun Olam*) through the story of Pesach
Again, what do we do when we are mistreated?
Compassion (*Rachamim*) through the story of Joseph

What is Israel?
Israel is a modern Jewish country. Which various types of Jews live there? What are its cities, industries, money, language, flag and culture? Why is it called “the Jewish homeland”?

How do we behave when we have doubts?
Commandment, obligation (*Mitsvah*) and proper behavior (*Derekh Erets*) through the story of the giving of the *Torah* and the holiday of *Shavuot*

Review: how we treat the earth and the environment

Review: how we treat ourselves and others; purpose of community, prayer and Jewish texts