

Justice League

Teen Fellowship on Judaism and Social Justice

Temple Beth Sholom, Miami Beach 2019-2020, 5780

Instructor:

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TBS Mission

Temple Beth Sholom is a vibrant, inclusive Jewish congregation in Miami Beach affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

We develop meaningful relationships and transformative experiences by committing to our core values of Spirituality (עבודה, *Avodah*), Lifelong Education (תורה, *Torah*), Community (קהילה, *Kehilah*), Israel (ישראל, *Yisrael*) and Repairing The World (תקון עולם, *Tikkun Olam*).

Justice League Overview

In alignment with our Temple's mission, the Justice League is a year-long cohort for advanced high school students who want to deepen their Jewish experiences of learning, service and advocacy while strengthening bonds with self, peers, the TBS community and the greater community of which we are a part in Miami Beach and beyond. Justice League is open to Jewish 11th & 12th graders, whose families are or are not current members of TBS. Admittance into Justice League will be selective, by completion of the below application only, and commitment must be 100% for the year.

The Fellowship will typically comprise of two meetings per month: one which will be an opportunity for a "deep-dive" into Jewish learning that relates to that month's theme; and one off-site meeting for learning and/or service in the community.

Justice League will include an immersive service trip over Spring Break (March 23 - March 30, 2020), sponsored by the Al and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation (AJNFF). This service-trip is only open to Justice League Fellows who participate throughout the year-long fellowship. It promises

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to be an unforgettable week of learning with opportunities to make a positive difference in the communities we visit.

Every fellow will take turns leading a project, including partnering with Rabbi Bair and the Justice League Organizer to design and direct the project. In consultation with Rabbi Bair, each fellow will also have the opportunity to study, write and deliver a D'var Torah based on their approved justice project, which will introduce the study session for the month.

Goals

Enduring Understandings:

1. Torah is profoundly concerned with and relevant for creating a more just society.
2. Our engagement with Jewish text adds meaning to our lives and keeps Jewish tradition evolving and alive.
3. Privilege is real and with it, comes great responsibility for those less fortunate.
4. Our world is broken. Through education, first-hand experiences and action, we can contribute to its healing.

Objectives:

1. **Learn.** Learn to engage with Jewish texts meaningfully.
2. **Teach:** Speak and advocate intelligently about several issues of social injustice in our community.
3. **Act:** For the sake of peace, build trust, build education & awareness and build compassion for those around us. Make a positive difference in the community.
4. **Lead.** Design and implement your own justice project.

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Advantages of Participation

Form new and deep friendships within the cohort and with diverse communities throughout Miami Beach and the region.

Become a more engaged and concerned citizen of Miami, of Florida, of the US and of the world.

Become a more engaged, knowledgeable and intentional Jewish young adult whose actions are rooted in Jewish learning and Jewish identity.

Understand connections between local and global issues by participating in a week-long, subsidized service-learning trip sponsored by the AI and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation (AJNFF).

Build leadership skills and experiences.

Rich experiences outside your normal routine.

Candidate Qualifications

- 11th-12th grade Jewish students
- Temple Beth Sholom Membership not required
- Access to web cam/Skype/ personal computer
- Enthusiastic and open-minded, Non-Judgmental Listener, Team Player
- Interested in, thoughtful about and have had experience in community service and/or advocacy for social justice
- Interested in exploring economic and food justice in the Global South.

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This application, including the essays, is my own work or formally cited from other sources. I affirm that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Student
Signature: _____

Biographical Information of Student:

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

Preferred Email:

Cell Phone: _____

Current School/Grade: _____

Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Yes No

Confirmed? Yes No

Been to Israel/Date ? Yes If yes, date: _____ No

Jewish Summer Camp/Name ? Yes No

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TBS Mitzvah Day Participant/Year/Project ? Yes No
If yes, year Project

Volunteer Organizations/Year/Project ?

Biographical Information of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Preferred Email Address:

Parent/Guardian are Temple Beth Sholom Members? Yes No

My teen and I have discussed his/her participation in this program and we both understand that there is a considerable time commitment needed to be an active member of this specialized curriculum. I will vouch for my teen's positive commitment.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Letters of Recommendation:

Please include (2) letters with your completed submission of this application:

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- 1) A current teacher's letter of recommendation
- 2) A mentor/coach/ employer's letter of recommendation

Letters of recommendation must be emailed directly from the recommender to rabbibair@tbsmb.org by Sunday, June 1, 2019.

Essay Questions: CHOOSE TWO OUT OF THE THREE: (please attach typed answers to back of application. No more than 250 words each)

1. Describe a particularly meaningful time when you volunteered in the community. What were you doing? How did it make you feel? What did it make you curious about?
2. Describe a time when you either personally experienced or witnessed injustice, or when an event in your life affected you deeply and made you aware of an unjust aspect of society?
3. What is one talent or quality about you that you think will add to / further the work of the group?

Please complete and submit this application to Rabbi Ethan Bair by sending as an attachment to rabbibair@tbsmb.org by Sunday, June 1, 2019.