

Registration may be done on our website, or use this form.

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Course/Program _____

Payment \$ _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CARRY A 3% CONVENIENCE FEE. TO HELP DEFRAY OUR COSTS, THE SERVICE FEE WILL BE ADDED TO ALL PAYMENTS MADE BY CREDIT CARD. PAYMENT IN THE FORM OF CHECKS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Credit Card payments may be processed on our website or by calling the synagogue office. You may mail this page with your tuition payment to the address below.



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Schenectady, NY 12309

Phone: 518-374-8173
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**Congregation Gates
of Heaven**



CHAI SCHOOL CATALOGUE

2022-2023

Core Principles
Experience It!
Jewish Framework!
Make Choices!
Build Relationships!
Make An Impact!

Rabbi Matt Cutler
*Arnold Rotenberg, Director of Congregational
Jewish Learning*
*Josh Cooper-Ginsburg, Director of
Administration and Operations*

For years, teens have participated in our programs for middle and high school students: Madrikhim/Madrikhot, Confirmation, Chai School (formerly Kolel), GOHTY/NFTY, TSCS, Eisner/Crane Lake/6 Points Sci Tech. There have been teens who have participated in one activity and others who have done a combination of the above.

This year our plan has evolved into the most exciting series yet to be offered by Congregation Gates of Heaven. Choose your level of involvement and what interests you. Regardless of your place in the program—we are, as we have always been, dedicated to providing life-changing experiences for teens through community, leadership, and social justice – all rooted in Reform Judaism and the goal of making our world more whole, just, and compassionate.

The program includes:

- A virtual civil rights tour to Manhattan, Bethel, Auburn, Seneca Falls, and Rochester to visit historical sites connected to the American struggle for freedom and equality.
- Advocacy- A Jewish Perspective—Studying Three Biblical Advocates: Moses, Esther, & Abraham
- Civic Engagement—Why is the activism of young, emerging voters so crucial right now; What role do they have to play in our democracy; How does our Judaism call us to act in this moment?
- Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
- Action & Advocacy

Meetings will take place both live and virtually at Congregation Gates of Heaven from 6:00-8:00 pm with dinner on the following Sundays:
September 18; October 23; November 20; December 18; January 22; February 12; March 19; April 30

Dates and times of meetings with State Representatives will take place will be announced at a later date.

Each class is \$10.00 which includes all materials; \$75.00 if paid in full.

Justice, Justice -You Shall Pursue
Chai School Social Justice Academy

“Every successful social movement in history was led by idealistic young people.”

Marshall Ganz,

Harvard Kennedy School for Public Service

In the Aleinu prayer at the end of each service, we read "L'Taken olam b'malchut Shaddai," 'perfecting the world under the rule of God.' Engage in Activism! Take a stand for Justice.

Our commitment to the pursuit of justice and providing meaningful opportunities for our high school students is unwavering. To that end, we are excited to offer the **Social Justice Academy**—a new program for the 2022-2023 year to offer meaningful, fun and actionable Jewish social justice education in a virtual setting.

We will address many justice issues that have long been addressed in years past and have again become a focal point in our communities: access to health care, economic inequality, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, climate change, Israel. You will learn how to become an advocate for these issues and then have an opportunity to talk and lobby with state representatives.

Chai School

Experience It! Learning will be integrated in real world and hands on experiences, critical thinking skills & collaboration with others.

Jewish Framework: Rooted within this framework, *Chai School* makes learning personal, relevant, and applicable. Programming is offered within *Chai School's Pathways*:

- Israel: What is my connection to Israel through multiple narratives— the land, history, people, culture, music, politics, dance, and religions?
- Peoplehood: How am I connected to “Am Yisrael” the People of Israel?
- Past, Present & Future: How will the history of the Jewish people help me navigate the present and prepare for the future?
- Connectedness: What does it mean to be spiritually connected? What touches my soul, grounds me, and makes me sense the Divine?
- Tikkun Olam: What will I do to be a responsible citizen in the world?
- Make Choices! You are in the driver’s seat allowing you to make guided choices about what you want to learn.
- Build Relationships! Participate in an expanded social network and community where both academic & social learning are crucial.
- Make an Impact! Experience that you have a voice learn how to express it in positive and proactive ways.

Madrikhim Leadership Program

Choose to volunteer your time (receive community service hours) or receive a stipend at the end of the year.

In Hebrew, Madrikhim means guide or counselor.

**JOIN US AGAIN, OR FOR THE FIRST TIME
Open to all teens in grade 8-12.**

You will...

- Understand how to work with children.
- Learn how to deal with problems in the classroom more efficiently.
- Create a deeper relationship with each student and create a better class environment.
- Learn, reflect, and experiment with how to be a student leader in formal, informal, and virtual environments.

We will get together on Sunday, August 28, from 10:00 am—Noon at Mountain Ridge Adventure in Schenectady for a ground base team building fun.

Let us know you are coming back or joining us for the first time. Call Arnie: (office) 518-374-8173 or (cell) 203-521-4591 or email arotenberg@cgoh.org

Hebrew for Travel
\$50.00 through January;
\$50.00 February – May; includes all material

Planning to visit the Holy Land but scared you will get lost in translation? Or do you want to learn some basic Hebrew conversation. This is the place. This course will teach you all the Hebrew necessary to successfully travel around Israel.

Grades: 8 – 12 Faculty: Gay Griffith
Time: TBD by students and instructor

The Jewish Lens: Exploring Values and Community through Photography

\$25.00 through January;
\$25.00 February – May

This class will show you that you are indeed a photographer. We will explore Jewish ethical concepts and challenge ourselves to portray them through photographs. We will use the work of contemporary photographer Zion Ozeri to discover the art of photography and how it connects us to the local and global communities. We will learn about the basics of capturing a photo and explore various methods of photo editing. Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their work here at CGOH and will also could have their photos considered as part of an international exhibition at Beit Hatfutsot (The Museum of Jewish Peoplehood—we had 2 in the show last year, one as an Honorable Mention) in Tel Aviv, Israel. This class will rely heavily on smartphone technology (iPhone and Android) as well as using classic digital cameras.

Grades 8 - 12
Faculty: TBD

8 meetings every other Sunday, times and schedule are flexible depending on student and faculty needs.

Open the *Dor* Paid Internship Opportunity

Become part of our vision creating generations of engaged, empowered, and experienced Jewish changemakers and givers. Our mission is to strengthen Jewish engagement and identity through supporting and elevating the field of Jewish youth philanthropy.

When you join you will be part of an intergenerational program of a collective grantmaking experience, enabling you to learn deeply about our community, examine your relationship to Jewish values, make strategic decisions, and ultimately allocate resources that will enrich people's lives.

Grades 8 – 12

Sundays, twice a month starting in October

Time: TBD

Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg



Reframing Israel

\$15.00 per student

Israel is a country of interchanging and overlapping narratives. It is a woven tapestry of stories, narratives, and life experiences from a rich diversity of population. Like threads of a tapestry each story has the potential to be complimentary one to another, and potentially in conflict.

Through personal stories, we will confront the larger issues facing Israeli and Jewish society today: Race, Gender, Religious Pluralism, Sexual Identity, Palestinian Identity, the IDF, Immigration, Anti-Semitism.

Twice a month, first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm starting in November. Rabbi Matt and Arnie will facilitate; guest speakers will compliment the course. The class will be live (with dinner) or virtual. Let us know your preference. You may choose virtual or live for each meeting date.

**November 1 & 15
December 6 & 20
January 3 & 17
February 7
March 7 & 21
April 4 & 18**

Confirmation—10th Grade

\$100

Confirmation is an important moment in the life of our teens and of our congregation. It is a time when students can integrate past learning into a new, mature understanding of who they are as Jews. The year culminates in a student led worship service and ceremony in the spring.

This year includes learning how the Reform Movement applies Jewish perspectives to mobilize around issues like reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, climate change, Israel, health care, and more. We will have the opportunity to talk with state representatives learning how to lobby for different issues.

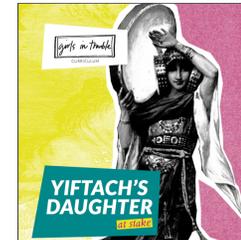
Faculty: Rabbi Matt and Arnie Rotenberg
Time to be determined by students and Rabbi Matt
Confirmation Ceremony TBD.



EmpowHER Leadership Institute \$15.00 per year

This course will encourage young women like you to develop your confidence, voice, and vision and will provide you with practical skills to become a leader in your community. With Biblical women as your inspiration, based on the *Girls in Trouble* curriculum, you will work together with your peers on real-world projects and develop your own unique leadership qualities and skills. This class is open to future female leaders in 10-12th grades.

Grade: 10 - 12
Faculty: TBD
Days: TBD by Students and Instructor.



The Book of Judges: The Jewish Game of Thrones \$15.00 per year

There is a very good reason we wait until High School to teach the book of Judges. It is a colorful, cruel, and intense series of stories about what happened when the Israelites tried to conquer the land of Canaan. The mood of the book is summed up by its ominous last lines: In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did as they pleased..."

Grades 10 – 12
Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg
Days: TBD

