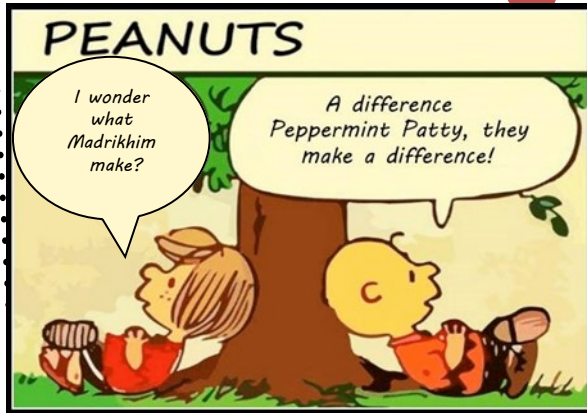


Congregation Gates of Heaven



CHAI SCHOOL

2020-2021 Course Catalogue

Core Principles

*Experience It!
Jewish Framework!
Make Choices!
Build Relationships!
Make An Impact!*

Rabbi Matt Cutler

Arnold Rotenberg, Director of
Congregational Jewish Learning

Laura Ehrich, Executive Director

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

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 Five Pathways*:

Israel: What is my connection to Israel – 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.

This unique program offers teens like you the opportunity to interact with peers, to develop communication and leadership skills, to increase self-confidence, express Jewish values as you learn and practice a variety of teaching skills and methodologies.

This year presents new challenges as many of our classes are virtual at least through December. Because the next coming months will offer us new encounters, we are offering you the opportunity to choose your role in the next few months. Choose from among these cores:

- ◆ **Tech Core:** assist teacher who need help with Zoom, YouTube, Flipgrid, Google Classroom and other platforms. You will meet with the teacher at least 2 days in advance to discuss the tech needs for the class and how you are able to help during the meeting. You can help develop games for the teacher based on the lesson to be taught. Games include Kahoot, Goose Chase, Bamboozle, etc.
- ◆ **Class Core:** Assist teachers with icebreakers, recording student responses in class, helping with instructions for hands-on projects, keeping an eye on student behavior. You will meet with the teacher at least 2 days in advance to discuss your ongoing role in the class.
- ◆ **Hebrew Core:** Work with students one-on-one helping them master different prayers. Meeting students in breakout rooms, you will listen to 1-2 students at time and report their progress to the teacher. You will meet the teacher at least 2 days in advance to discuss your ongoing role in class.

We are asking that each Madrikhah and Madrikh choose one of the choices from the previous page.

**All returning Madrikhim
call/text Arnie at 203-521-4591 with your choice.**

**For those entering 8th grade
once a month you will be part of a Hadrakha—Training
session on becoming an aide in our school. The 8th grade
classes will occur each on specific (TBD) Sundays from
11:00-11:45 am.**

**All 8th grade students should fill in the New Madrikhim
Application which is part of this packet.**

**Orientation and training on
Sunday, August 30 from 11:00 am -12:00 pm.
Zoom link will be sent out.**



KNOW



BELONG



DO

CONFIRMATION

10 Grade

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.

In past years, the Confirmation class goes to Washington, DC for the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar sponsored by the Reform Action Center (RAC). Because of COVID-19, this year's seminar is cancelled. However, the RAC has created an alternative program. We encourage our Confirmands to take advantage of these sessions and learn how the Reform Movement applies Jewish perspectives to mobilize around issues like reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, climate change, Israel, health care, and more.

Faculty: Rabbi Matt and Arnie Rotenberg

Course Fee: \$100

Meets: Time to be determined by students and Rabbi Matt

Confirmation Ceremony will be May 16, 2021



INCLUSION **FOR MADRIKHOT/MADRIKHIM**

Grades: 9-12

The Matan Institute for Teens is a course that teaches about inclusion and will help you fill a critical role as an aide/helper in our classrooms in the most effective way possible. Whether we are meeting virtually or face to face, you will learn to recognize how to make our community more inclusive for all students; that everyone in our community has something to offer. You will recognize that there are things only you can do and that the work you do as Madrikhim is important.

Not every Madrikhah/Madrikh will be able to be in a classroom each week. This gives you an additional option for Sunday mornings to be engaged in helping our students and being part of the community.

Course Fee: \$25

Meets: Monthly Meetings are 45 minutes, Sundays at 11:00 am on October 11, November 15, December 13 and January 10.

CGOH COMMUNITY YOUTH FOUNDATION

Grades: 8-12

The Jewish Teen Philanthropy program will introduce you to collective grant making. This group process is guided by Jewish values and will provide you with opportunities to gain new leadership skills.

Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg

Course Fee: \$25

Meets: Second Sunday of each month, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

TZEDEK AMERICA

Grades: 8–12

Tzedek America is an immersive and experiential social justice education for teens providing ten 60-minute digital social justice workshops throughout the academic year and include (you get to choose a minimum of three):

- Social Justice Starts with Me // September 13, 2020
- Food Justice // November 15, 2020
- Exploring Racial Justice and Systematic Racial Oppression // October 25, 2020
- What is Social Enterprise? // December 13, 2020
- Understanding Homelessness // January 24, 2021
- Supporting People with Diverse Abilities // March 14, 2021
- Immigration Justice // April 18, 2021
- Honoring Older Adults // February 28, 2021
- Social Justice in Israel // May 2, 2021

Benefits for students:

- Experience a high-quality, professionally produced “out of the classroom” digital workshop form anywhere.
- Engage in a high-level Jewish learning with other teens from across North America.
- Earn community service hours.
- Learn to “speak up, not cover: the lived experiences of those who are oppressed by systemic and structural injustice.

Course Fee: \$100 for 3 workshops

Meets: Monthly on Sundays listed above at 7:00 pm

HEBREW FOR TRAVEL

Grades: 8 – 12

Planning to visit the Holy Land but sacred 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.

Faculty: TBD

Course Fee: \$50.00 through January; \$50.00 February – May; includes all materials

Meets: TBD by students and instructor

THE JEWISH LENS:

Exploring Values and Community through Photography

Grades: 8 – 12

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.

Faculty: TBD

Course Fee: \$50.00 through January; \$50.00 February – May

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

THE SHABBAT PROGRAM

Learn to lead/assist the Kids' Service

Grades: 7-12

This program is for those who choose to attend Friday evening services. The first Friday evening of each month we host a Tot Shabbat, a service for toddlers through Kindergarten at 5:30 pm for a half hour followed by a pizza dinner, or virtual on Zoom. Learn from Elisa Harrington-Verb, Rabbi Matt, and Arnie how to lead an interactive service for these children and their families.

On the second Friday evening of the month, following a potluck dinner (approximately 7:00 pm), you can lead or assist *The Kids' Congregation*, formally known as K'tan Shabbat. These "kid friendly" services for kindergarten – second grade are quite different than when you were in Hebrew School and have added much to our community. You can be part of this exciting program by leading and actively teaching students the Shabbat Service in a lively, active way and learning the geography of the Shabbat Service, choreography of the *Bima*, the prayers involved, and how to successfully lead a fun, interactive service for kids.

Fee: No charge

Dates: TBA

BETTER TOGETHER

Paid Internship Opportunity

Grades: 8 – 12

Engage, train, build, and connect! This unique offering trains and empowers you to work with seniors creating an innovative and intergenerational program with local senior facilities. You will implement a comprehensive *Tikkun Olam* program that includes training to develop a relationship with a senior and become sensitized to the needs of seniors. May count as community service hours.

Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg





Hey GOHTY!

My name is Julia Cutler and I am super excited to be the youth director for this school year! A lot of you may know me as Rabbi Matt's daughter, however, I am also a GOHTY and NFTY alum. I served on GOHTY's board as the NFTY rep for 3 years, and I also served as NFTY rep on NFTY Northeast's regional board. I loved my time in GOHTY and NFTY! Like most activities today, we are unsure of what this year will look like. We are in the process of developing program ideas and speaking with other youth groups to see what they are doing, and I am very interested in your input and ideas! Please email me at julia@cgo.org or call/text me at 518-301-5144 any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. I would also love to get to know you all a little better!! I have created a google form with some questions and a place for your contact information, the link is attached at the end of this email. Please fill it out so we can connect! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and to get this year started!

Google Forms link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5leLNGnsPcxdl7f5qyvWv0weHYMps4cklyi6oFiaCSmdKwg/viewform?usp=sf_link

EmpowHER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

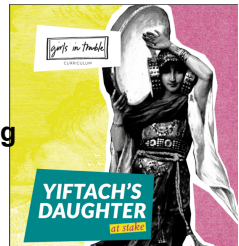
Grade: 10 - 12

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.

Faculty: TBD

Fee: \$25.00 per year

Meets: TBD by Students and Instructor, virtual setting



THE BOOK OF JUDGES: The Jewish Game of Thrones

Grades: 10-12

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...”

Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg

Fee: \$25 per year

Meets: TBD



RAC (Reform Action Center) **Social Justice Academy**

Grades 9-12

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 RAC (Reform Action Center) Social Justice Academy—a new program for the 2020-2021 year to offer meaningful, fun and actionable Jewish social justice education in a virtual setting.

This program, in place of our trip to Washington, DC, will not be repetitive of [L'Taken](#), so all teens in your community are encouraged to join: those who have not yet been on L'Taken as well as those who have previously attended.

The very justice issues we have long addressed at L'Taken have only been made clearer by the pandemic, from access to health care to economic inequality and beyond. More than ever, we must expand the ranks of committed social justice activists. We are excited about the new opportunities the RAC Social Justice Academy will provide as we continue to inspire and develop the next generation of justice leaders. Join us!

The RAC Social Justice Academy will run three stand-alone units designed for grades 9-12 over the course of the 2020-2021/5781 academic year. Email Arnie for more information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACADEMY SCHEDULE

Unit 1: Civic Engagement

September/October-early November 2020

- 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?

Unit 2: REDI (Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)

November-December 2020 TBD

- Learn some basic understandings of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices
- Begin to examine how our identities inform the way we show up to various spaces, and in turn impact those we engage with
- Begin to understand the value of disrupting dominant culture with the goal of creating more explicit antiracist environments
- Gain practical resources and practices that we can incorporate throughout our communities

Unit 3: Action & Advocacy

January/February-April 2021 TBD

- Why should I be a Jewish voice for justice? How is my faith, moral voice an important voice in this moment?
- What is an issue and a systemic solution I can advocate for ?
- How can I take action?

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

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

Course/Program: _____

Choice of Days (if offered): _____

Course Fee: \$ _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CARRY A 3% CONVENIENCE FEE. 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: Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309.