

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 _____

Choice of Days (if offered) _____

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.



852 Ashmore Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12309

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



CHAI SCHOOL CATALOGUE

2021-2022

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

Rabbi Matt Cutler
*Arnold Rotenberg, Director of Congregational
Jewish Learning*

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.

ADAPTIVE INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP **In partnership with New York University (NYU)**

Participants who successfully complete this unique Fellowship will earn an academic certificate from NYU in Adaptive Innovation. In these turbulent times, the study of entrepreneurship and innovation can be a stabilizing force, providing the mindset that will help you understand the new world, navigate it, and change it. This 9-session online experience was developed by Dr. Nir Tsuk, founder of NYU's Institute for Impact and Intrapreneurship, and will follow a similar curriculum to NYU's innovation courses. Participants will gain skills in entrepreneurship and innovation, build an entrepreneurial connection to Israel, navigate current challenges, and shape the solution, and meet similarly passionate students while learning from experts in the field. The nine weeks of learning will conclude with each participant implementing a project that they are passionate about and engages a circle of peers. This Fellowship requires from its participant's commitment, creativity, curiosity, and ambition. Its outcome, in turn, is graduates who will skillfully navigate their future—and shape it.

ISRAEL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

The Reform Israel Leadership Fellowship is designed for students grades 11-1st Year University/Gap Year to develop leadership skills around Israel, Zionism, Jewish Peoplehood, and a Reform Jewish approach. Learning with experts in the field and peer mentors, participants will gather twice a month online and at an in-person weekend conference to explore their own views of Israel, prepare to be leaders in their communities, and mobilize around progressive issues including religious freedom, LBGTQIA rights, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

JEWISH YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVISM ACADEMY

In partnership with the [Jewish Youth Climate Movement](#). Join with peers from across North America to learn with climate justice experts, gain critical skills for organizing and taking action, and help ensure a more equitable and sustainable world for all. Participants will leave this academy with the knowledge and resources to participate in this movement or launch their own climate justice work in their congregation, NFTY region, or larger community.

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 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 29, 6:00 PM at Gates of Heaven; join us live or virtually (link will be sent out in August).

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

LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Powered by URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy

Interested in leading through the lens of artistic expression? Channel your passion for the arts and your hone your leadership skills through the URJ Leadership Through the Arts Fellowship. Learn with working artists in visual and performing arts and movement leaders; shape and share your point of view. Participants will meet twice a month virtually for learning, mentoring with a small group, and creating, in addition to leading locally and attending an in-person conference in Spring 2022.

RAC TEEN JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP Powered by the Religious Action Center

The fellowship is a learning intensive designed to train high schoolers to be community organizers in their home communities. Racial justice fellows will meet virtually every week for 6 weeks to hone your leadership skills, learn about advocacy, and be involved in the RAC's work, including the Reform Movement's 2021 Racial Justice Campaign. As a fellow, you'll learn community organizing skills, explore your own identity and what your sources of privilege and oppression are, the roots of racial inequity, skills to make your community antiracist, and complete a racial justice project in your home community. You get to learn, decide how you want to make an impact, and be the leader that makes it happen.

Teen Leadership Opportunities Fellowships

These programs offer you the skills that will move you forward. The people who can help you reach your goals. The chance to lead your community. Fellowships offer our highest level of leadership training for teens who are ready to take their learning to the next level.

To learn more about these programs and to register, go to our website, www.cgoh.org and find Chai School.

SONGLEADING

In Partnership with the American Conference of Cantors

Learn with Jewish music legends and gain concrete skills to lead your community in song and celebration. This prestigious eight-month fellowship is led by Cantor Rosalie Will in partnership with the musical leaders of our movement, including the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). Participants join together twice a month for virtual meetings as a full group and with their cohort, in addition to working locally in their community and attending an in-person conference in Spring 2022.

Reframing Israel

\$50.00 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. Rabbi Matt and Arnie will facilitate; guest speakers will compliment the course.

**October 5 & 19
November 2 & 16
December 7 & 21
January 4 & 18
February 1 & 15
March 1 & 15
April 5 & 12**

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 will be May 15.



Hebrew for Travel

**\$50.00 through January;
\$50.00 February – May; includes all material**

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.

Grades: 8 – 12 Faculty: Gay Griffith

Time: TBD by students and instructor

The Jewish Lens: Exploring Values and Community through Photography

**\$50.00 through January;
\$50.00 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.

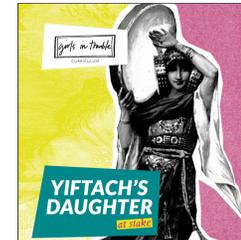
Grades 8 – 12
Sundays, twice a month starting in October
Time: TBD
Faculty: Arnie Rotenberg



EmpowHER Leadership Institute \$25.00 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 \$25.00 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

