



# Congregation Etz Chaim

## Department of Education

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Shalom Lewis  
Rabbi Emeritus

Daniel Dorsch  
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Executive Director

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Dear Families,

We are very excited to share what is being offered for Chai Five this year. We have made some changes to our program and we think your teens will find them enjoyable and informative.

The course format for the 2019-2020 school year is:

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will enjoy *Hot Topics*, a 14 session course of study that will focus on topics relevant to teens. The topic choices will be wide ranging from *Jewish Personalities in History*, *Comparative Religion*, *Women in the Bible*, *Our Names and What Do They Mean*, to name a few. Students will have a chance to generate their own list and the group, along with the teacher, will map out the topic for each month. Everyone is invited to the kick off dinner on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, to get acquainted with the instructor, Miriam Rosenbaum, and start brainstorming class ideas.

The 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation track, *Tough Questions Jews Ask*, will be taught by Rabbi Dorsch and will include 10 sessions throughout the year. Teens will discuss topics such as *The Meaning of Life*, *Why Does Religion Need So Many Rules?* and *Life after Death*.

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to learn from Rabbi Dorsch during Teen Leadership, a three session program held at his home. Topics for these discussions will be: the Jewish College Experience, Understanding Anti-Semitism on Campus, and a meal prep for Rebecca's Tent.

All Chai Five classes will take place on Monday evenings. Please see the enclosed calendar for the dates for each of the age groups. We hope that Etz Chaim's 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders attending a day school or The Weber School, as well as students you might know whose families do not belong to Etz Chaim will join us on Monday evenings. Our goal is both social and educational, so everyone is encouraged to participate in our program. Feel free to invite your friends and share the registration form with them.

Students in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and their parents are invited to join us for a kick off dinner on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:15 pm. You will have the opportunity to schmooze, meet the teachers and get a start on the school year.

Please direct any questions and RSVP to Debbie Deutsch at [debbie@etzchaim.net](mailto:debbie@etzchaim.net).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Debbie Deutsch  
Director of Education

Rabbi Dan Dorsch