

# Congregation B'nai Shalom Chai School 5779!

Grades 7 – 12 - 2018-2019/5779

## Introduction and General Information

"Chai School" at Congregation B'nai Shalom meets the challenge of providing a meaningful and relevant Jewish education for adolescent age students by allowing them to design their own program of study!

**Registration:** Each Chai School student must submit a "Student Plan" *On-Line Form* by Tuesday, September 25, 2018. You will find the registration link at the end of this document! Class size will be limited to no more than 14 students per teacher. In cases where enrollment may exceed 14 students, classes may be team-taught.

**Your Busy Schedule:** We will work with students to resolve scheduling conflicts!

**Confirmation:** Tenth grade is our Confirmation year, a special time to develop a relationship with our rabbis, our Youth Educator, and our Congregation. Weekly classes taught by Rabbi Gurevitz, Rabbi Eiduson and Debbi Morin are designed to bring the entirety of the students' Jewish Education into better focus. A highlight of this year includes a four-day seminar - the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington D.C. sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. **The Confirmation Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 8, 2019.**

## What is Required?

All Students in **Grades Seven through Ten** must accumulate **60 Jewish Education Credits (JECs)** and all **Post Confirmation** students must accumulate **40 Jewish Education Credits (JECs)** by May 31, 2019. Those students who accumulate 80 or more JECs will receive honors recognition!

### A. **Core Classes** (20 JECs – THESE CLASSES ARE REQUIRED)

- **Grades Seven through Ten** meet on Tuesday nights 6:00 pm – to 7:25 pm throughout the school year. Students must maintain 70% core class attendance.
- **Post Confirmation (Grades Eleven and Twelve)** meets on Tuesday nights twice monthly 6:00 pm – 7:25 pm. Students must maintain 70% core class attendance.

#### **Core Class Curriculum**

**Grade 7:** *Hineini – Here I Am as an Emerging Jewish Adult* - Using the curriculum created by Facing History and Ourselves, our seventh-grade curriculum links history to ethics by engaging teachers and students in a journey from identity, through the study of a specific historical case study, provoking questions that are both particular and universal. Students study traditional Jewish sources focusing on the prophets and their responses to anti-Semitism and difficult historical times. Students also use the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade CHAI Torah Curriculum. CHAI focuses on personal reflection and improvement, "Who I am and who I'd like to be," helping each student reach his/her potential. Torah study turns to *B'reishit* and Commentaries, focusing on a few stories of individuals who grow and learn.

**Grade 8:** *Making Judaism Work for Me!* – The 8<sup>th</sup> graders study comparative religion through Jewish eyes. Students discuss and learn about each of the world's major religions and debate how Judaism is both similar and different from them. Comparative religion is a wonderful way to learn about Judaism! Topics include; "what is a religion", things to remember about Judaism, and basic understandings of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Students will also discuss how to respond to Christian Missionaries. Jewish Text-based activities that further open students' insight into each religion and invite active discussions will complement each session. A "Jewish Boston" weekend retreat is the highlight of the second semester!

**Grade 9: *Coming to America*** - Our 9th graders, using contemporary materials and specifically designed curriculum, explore the political, social, economic, and religious history of the American Jewish community during the Eastern European migration to America. Students travel as a group to New York City and experience their curriculum "first hand" during our Jewish New York Educational Seminar.

9<sup>th</sup> graders also explore ethical and moral issues and learn how to apply Jewish principles and concepts to their everyday lives. Jewish text study and group debate and discussion make up the core of our 9<sup>th</sup>-grade program.

**Grade 10: *Confirmation*** - What is God? Is there more than one way to perceive of God? How can we know God? What does God want from us? How does God fit into my life? If there is a God, why do terrible things happen in the world? This is a course about ways in which Jews have spoken about and to God through four thousand years of Jewish history. The Rabbis will present a spectrum of theological options that have been explored and affirmed by great Jewish thinkers, ancient and modern, and offer students a solid foundation to begin the exploration of their own concepts of God.

Our 10th graders also participate in a social action program in Washington D.C. They join students from all over the country to experience our nation's capital through Jewish lenses. The 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year culminates in a Confirmation ceremony on *Erev Shavuot*. Under the guidance of the Rabbis, the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students create and lead the service, offering their own insights and teachings to the congregation.

**Grades 11 and 12:** Our Post Confirmation program is designed to ensure that our students are ready for the challenges of post high school graduation. When they graduate high school, our students will come into contact and interact with students from all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. When they are talking with their friends and questions come up about what Judaism believes in, this course will assist them with the answers. This two-year curriculum focuses on Mussar (Jewish ethics) and dilemmas facing teens. Highlights of the year include a seminar in American Jewish History in Philadelphia and a Southern US Civil rights weekend.

**B. Jewish Studies Mini-Course Modules (10 JECs Per Module)**

Most Mini-Course Modules will meet on Tuesday nights, following core classes from 7:35 pm to 8:30 pm. Some may be offered at other times during the week. **Seventh and eighth**-grade students must sign up and complete requirements for at least **three of the five modules for the year**. **Ninth & Tenth**-grade students must sign up and complete requirements for at least **two of the five modules for the year**. There is no minimum requirement for Post Confirmation students. Some modules are restricted to students in certain grade groups. A full description of Mini-Course Modules and a schedule may be found beginning on page 6 of this booklet.

**C. Grade Level Educational Seminars (10 JECs Each)**

Students in grades seven through twelve participate in grade level educational retreats and seminars. In addition, students in grades eleven and twelve may "staff" a retreat for students in grades five through eight.

**2018-19 Seminar Dates!**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade—December 8-9, 2018—Hanukkah Shul-in (for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)  
**April 26-28, 2019**—The Boston Jewish Experience

9<sup>th</sup> Grade—**November 9-11, 2018**—Coming to America Education Seminar in NYC

10<sup>th</sup> Grade—**February 8-11, 2019**—Washington DC Religious Action Center L'Taken Education Seminar

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades Post Confirmation Class—**January 24-27, 2019**—Civil Rights Southern Education Seminar

#### D. **Worship Service Attendance** (Up to 20 JECs)

Students may accumulate up to 20 JECs by attending Shabbat or holiday (excluding *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Tot Shabbat*) worship at any synagogue or organized youth group function. Two credits will be given for each service attended provided students turn in a Worship Service Report (“W”) form. A link to the forms may be found at <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U>. Students also may earn up to ten of the twenty worship JECs by attending services at summer camp, and seventh graders working on *Shaarei Kehilah* requirements may use JECs to satisfy both requirements!

#### E. **Independent Study Projects** (10 – 20 JECs Per Project)

Students and families may contract with Rabbi Gurevitz or Rabbi Eiduson to design and work on any number of Jewish research projects. Proposals should be submitted on the Independent Project (“I”) form. A link to the forms may be found at <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U>. Call our rabbis to “brainstorm” ideas or check out the “Independent Study Idea” list below. **WAFTY Alert:** Active involvement in the **planning** of Youth Group events may count for “Independent Study” JEC Credit provided approval is given in advance by Debbi Morin and a form is filed.

##### Possible Independent Study Ideas

- Create a ritual object for a holiday or an instructive bulletin board/display
- Choose a major ethical decision and write a Jewish response
- Read a book by a Jewish author or on a Jewish theme and write a review
- Watch four movies with Jewish content and write an essay on their themes
- Create a scrapbook about Israel
- Prepare a new Torah portion to read at a Friday evening service
- Write a short story or series of poems with a Jewish theme
- Write and illustrate a Bible story which can be used in a lower grade classroom
- Study the music of a Jewish composer and prepare a concert
- Create a Jewish work of art (painting, sculpture, a piece of music)
- Research your family’s history and then create a family tree
- Compile a family cookbook of traditional Jewish recipes, or
- Study several Jewish cookbooks and prepare a variety of dishes for your family
- Design your own family Jewish study curriculum

#### F. **Students Together Opposing Prejudice (STOP)** (20 JECs)

During the months of January through March each year, Congregation B’nai Shalom serves as a co-sponsor of the annual STOP program ([Students Together Opposing Prejudice](#)). Our Social Action Committee coordinates the seven-session program with a Muslim Academy in Worcester and Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist and Orthodox Christian Churches in our area. This interfaith initiative is aimed at educating seventh and eighth graders on how to identify and confront stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. The sessions typically take place on seven Thursday evenings 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm during the winter months.

#### G. **Community Service** (Up to 20 JECs)

Students may accumulate **one credit per hour of volunteer service** when they complete a Community Service/Volunteer Recording (“C”) form: <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U> at the completion of their service. A maximum of 20 JECs may be earned in this area. Students may earn community service volunteer JECs during the summer. **Madrichim** may choose to donate all or a part of their salaries back to the Temple (by writing a check made out to the Temple and giving it to Rabbi Eiduson) and receive 1 JEC per hour of donated community service to a maximum of 20 JECs. Seventh Graders working on *Shaarei Kehilah* may use JECs to satisfy both requirements! **Eighth graders who volunteer as Madrichim will receive 40 Community service JECs at the completion of the year.**

## **Community Service Ideas**

These are some ways students have earned Community Service JEC's. Call or email any of these agencies and ask how you can be of service.

### Volunteer at Temple

High Holy Day Childcare  
Madrichim  
WAFTY Food Drive  
Help with Shabbat Dinners  
Help with Tot Shabbat  
Work at the Purim Carnival

Westborough Food Pantry  
Prepare/Serving Food to the Needy  
Northborough Meals

### Volunteer at:

a hospital  
a thrift store  
a geriatric center  
a local library  
Jewish Family Service  
Habitat for Humanity  
an Environmental Group

### Other Ideas:

Tutor at School  
Develop a scouting project

## **H. Attendance at a Jewish Summer Learning Program (10 JECs)**

Students who attend Eisner, Crane Lake, Six Points Sci-Tech or Sports Academy, URJ Kutz Camp or a Jewish Camp in which material of a substantive Jewish content is taught (Jewish learning sessions or activities at least three days weekly) or who participate in an Israel Learning Experience may earn 10 JECs upon completion of a Summer Camp/Israel Programming ("S") form: <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U> which has been signed by the camp or Israel program director in which the content area studied is described.

## **I. Participation in Youth Group Study Program (Up to 20 JECs)**

Programs of WAFTY 678 and Sr. WAFTY and NFTY-NE are eligible for JECs. Students may earn JECs through participation, i.e. planning and/or attendance at many of the functions scheduled during the year. Hours must be submitted using the Independent Project ("I") form: <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U>. For more information concerning NFTY-NE, WAFTY 678 and Sr. WAFTY programs contact our Youth Educator, [Debbi Morin](#).

## **J. Participation in B'nai Shalom Adult Education Courses, High Holy Day Choirs or Reading Torah for a Friday Night Shabbat Service or for Simchat Torah! (Up to 20 JECs)**

Students in grades seven through twelve who attend Adult Education courses or classes, participate in rehearsals and performances of the choir, or read Torah on a Friday night or on Simchat Torah, may earn up to 20 JECs with prior approval from Rabbi Eiduson. Hours must be submitted using the Independent Project ("I") form.

## **K. Become a Torah and Tefilla Fellow (Up to 20 JECs)**

Saturdays (8:00-9:30 AM)

Join B'nai Shalom's weekly Torah and Tefilla study group up to 10 times between October and May. Two credits will be given for each session attended provided students turn in the Independent Project ("I") form: <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/chai-school.html#U>. You will be one of our congregation's official "Torah Fellows"! Deepen and enrich your understanding of our people's most sacred text! For more information, contact [Rabbi Gurevitz](#).

## Requirements Summary

Grade Level	7	8	9/10	11/12	
<b>Total JECs Required</b>	60	60	60	40	<b>Paperwork</b>
A. Core Curriculum	20 (min 80% att.)	20 (min 70% att.)	20 (min 70% att.)	20 (min 70% att.)	Contract Due 9/25/18
B. Mini-Modules (10 JECs each) STOP (20 JECs)	Minimum of 30	Minimum of 30	Minimum of 20	No minimum	
C. Seminar/Retreat	10	10	10	10	NONE
D. Worship (2 JEC's per service)	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Form "W"
E. Independent Study	10-20 per project	10-20 per project	10-20 per project	10-20 per project	Form "I"
F. Community Service (1 JEC/hr.); 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Madrachim receive 40 JECs/year.	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Form "C"
H. Jewish Summer Learning	10	10	10	10	Form "S"
I. Adult Ed, Choir, or Torah Reader	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Form "I"
J. Youth Group Study Events	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Form "I"
K. Adult Education or Torah Fellow!	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20	Form "I"

### Congregation B'nai Shalom "Chai School" Calendar 2018 – 2019/5779

(All Core Classes meet 6:30 pm – 7:25 pm and Mini-Modules meet 7:35 pm – 8:30 pm at Congregation B'nai Shalom)

#### Mini-Module I

October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

#### Mini-Module II

Nov. 6, 13 & 27, December 11 & 18

#### Mini-Module III

January 8, 15, 22, 29 & February 5

#### Mini-Module IV

February 12, 26, March 5, 12 & 19

#### Mini-Module V

March 26, April 2, 9, 30 & May 7

Post-Confirmation Grades 11 and 12 will meet 6:00 pm – 7:25 pm on the following Tuesdays:

October 2, 16 & 30

November 13

December 4 & 18

January 15 & 29

February 12

March 5 & 19

April 2 & 30

May 14

#### NOTE:

Special Hanukkah Program 6:00 – 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Special Passover Program 6:00 – 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Final Night of Chai School 6:00 – 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

## **2018 – 2019/5779 Module Descriptions**

### **Make History: Interview Project & Video 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>** **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Congregation B'nai Shalom**

As part of the congregation's 40<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations, we are creating a video archive of interviews of congregants who can help retell the history of the congregation and some of the special moments from the past 40+ years. This elective will be offered for the first four sections of the year, with opportunities for students to sign up for one or more of the 5-week units.

#### **Units 1 and 2 (October 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>):**

Interviewing congregants and video recording. Students will have an opportunity to interview our members and/or help with the video and sound while we interview. Everyone will learn a lot about their congregation that they never knew!

**Units 3 and 4 (January 8<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>):** Video Editing units. Students with video editing skills, or students who would like to learn and work in partnership with those who already have these skills are invited to sign up for these units to help edit and produce the final excerpts from the interview project to create our video history series. Students with prior experience in video editing especially needed. Those with no experience will be paired with more experienced editors.

### **God, Miracles and Science 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

The Torah and other Jewish writings mention many miracles that helped the Jewish people survive for two thousand years. Did God directly cause these miracles to happen or did God use scientific phenomena to achieve them? We will examine several miracles and try to understand how they may have occurred. Barry Luftig will be the instructor.

### **The History of Jews in America - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

This elective will emphasize the fact that Jews have been a part of American life since the very beginning and will highlight the numerous contributions that Jewish individuals have made to American society. We will focus on a different historical era and will cover events like the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the founding of the Anti-Defamation League, and the Civil Rights Movement. We will explore each era by examining primary source documents and by learning about central Jewish figures from that era. Laura Bishop will be the instructor.

### **Holocaust Literature - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

In this elective, we will be viewing the movie, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" (2008). In the movie, the main character dies in a gas chamber at the end, which students can find distressing. We will be using the movie as a frame to discuss the experiences of children and young adults during the Holocaust. We will be reading supplementary literature, poetry, and first-hand accounts, written by children and young adults. Laura Bishop will be the instructor.

### **Holocaust Literature - 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

In this elective, we will be reading and discussing a short novel about the Holocaust. Selections could include "Night" by Elie Wiesel, "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness" by Simon Wiesenthal, or "I Promised I Would Tell" by Sonia Weiss, amongst others. Care will be taken to select stories that are based on real-life experiences. Laura Bishop will be the instructor.

### **Iron Chef 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

In this elective, students have a chance to explore (and cook...and eat!) food in general, Jewish food from the Diaspora, from Israel and from Sephardic and Ashkenazic traditions. We will consider issues of food justice and "eco-kashrut" and how food plays a role in our lives. Ultimately, we will discover how food can nourish both our bodies and our spirits! Lynn Kass will be the instructor.

### **2nd City Improvs 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Like to use your imagination? Like to create something out of very little? Then join us for drama improvisations! You may be put into a scene, given an object or idea and either individually or in groups have to create a mini-play, just a scene or portray an idea. Sometimes there's talking and sometimes just acting. It's as tame or as wild as your imagination will take you but it's guaranteed to be lots of fun. Lynn Kass will be the instructor.

### **Jewish Theatre Workshop 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Feb. 12, 26, March 5, 12 & 19 - **Grades 7-12**

This workshop will explore students' talents as actors while at the same time better defining their individual Jewish identities. **Workshop participants will produce and create a Purim Spiel for the**

**community! Students who sign up for this elective MUST be available to act on the night of our Purim celebration on Wednesday, March 20th.** Lynn Kass will be the instructor.

#### **Lesson Planning: I Can Facilitate a Chug!**

October 2, 16, 30 November 13 & December 18  
**PC Only (Juniors/Seniors Only).** This course is mandatory for Post Confirmation students with an interest in facilitating a Chug for the *Anaf* and *Gezah* divisions, Term 3. Cheryl will work with the *Gezah* and *Anaf* faculty to include your Chugim ideas for consideration when students are making their choices. Please come to this class with chugim ideas. NOTE: Students must attend class on all dates listed above. Cheryl Pouliot will be the instructor.

#### **Life Lessons with Peter Griffin 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Peter Lowenbrau Griffin is a main character of the American animated sitcom Family Guy. Many of the show's funniest moments and most poignant scenes come courtesy of Peter's shenanigans. We are going to share some of Peter's antics, relate them to anti-Semitism and how Jews are portrayed on television and debate the lessons Peter must share about life! Rabbi Joe Eiduson will be the instructor.

#### **Make your own Tallit! 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

In this Mini Module, you will make your own Tallit! Perhaps for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation? Tallitot will be completed in five sessions. Danielle Gillman will be the instructor.

#### **Modern Hebrew and Israeli Culture 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

For those who would like to take their knowledge of Hebrew to the next level and learn to speak (not just read and write) modern Hebrew, this is a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in our people's sacred language through Israeli culture, films, magazines, food, and more! Our Israeli Emissaries will be the instructors.

#### **The Other 603 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

You all know the ten commandments, but do you also know that Jews have 613 mitzvot? See and learn what the other 603 are. Many are very important, and several are very strange. Let's together try to understand why they are our commandments. Barry Luftig will be the instructor.

#### **Scrapbooking with a Jewish Twist! 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

In this class, you'll learn scrapbooking and create simple, yet beautiful keepsakes. You'll also learn how to organize your photos, where to find inspiration, and SO MUCH MORE! You can document your life and cherish your photos even if you are not an experienced scrapbooker. Danielle Gilman will be the instructor.

#### **Play Like an Israeli! 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

This is a class for those who wish to learn how to have fun Israeli style! Dance like an Israeli, sing like an Israeli, learn fun games and play like an Israeli! Learn how Israeli teens have fun and experience a bit of Israeli culture! No experience necessary. Our Israeli Emissaries will be the instructors.

#### **Sex in The Texts 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

We will use the book of the same name written by Rabbi Paul Yedwab. This will NOT be an 'X' rated course! We will study what the Torah and Rabbinic sources say about Jewish sexuality and traditions. From the story of creation to the Garden of Eden and sexual issues with our forefathers (and their wives). Barry Luftig will be the instructor.

#### **So, You Want to be a Madrich/Madricha 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**

On three things our Hebrew School stands- on students, on teachers, and on Madrichim. We'll cover such topics as Teachers as role models, child development and learning styles, and the do's and don'ts of being great Madrichim. **Potential Madrichim are encouraged to enroll in this module.** Cheryl Pouliot and Debbi Morin will be the instructors.

<b>Module</b>	<b><u>Seventh and Eighth Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Ninth-Twelfth Grade</u></b>
<b>I</b>	Make History: Interview Project The History of Jews in America Make your own Tallit! Sex in the Texts	Make History: Interview Project Lesson Planning: I Can Facilitate a Chug! Iron Chef Life Lessons with Peter Griffin
<b>II</b>	Make History: Interview Project God, Miracles, and Science 2 <sup>nd</sup> City Improvs	Make History: Interview Project Lesson Planning: I Can Facilitate a Chug! Scrapbooking with a Jewish Twist Modern Hebrew and Israeli Culture
<b>III</b>	Make History: Interview Project Modern Hebrew and Israeli Culture Life Lessons with Peter Griffin	Make History: Interview Project God, Miracles, and Science Make your own Tallit! 2 <sup>nd</sup> City Improvs
<b>IV</b>	Make History: Interview Project Jewish Theatre Workshop Holocaust Literature Play Like an Israeli!	Make History: Interview Project Jewish Theatre Workshop The Other 603
<b>V</b>	Scrapbooking with a Jewish Twist So, You Want to be a Madrich? The Other 603 Iron Chef	Holocaust Literature Play Like an Israeli! So, You Want to be a Madrich?