



Masa HS program

Congregation Shearith Israel

Our objective: To create an enduring understanding that our history requires us to make a difference in the world. We do this through Torah (learning), avodah (worship), and gemilut hasadim (acts of lovingkindness). Students will learn to look at how we act in the world through the lens of Jewish values. We want students to see that their Jewish values can guide them through living a life of meaning.

Our desire: We want to create in our young teenagers the internal narrative to equip them to be able to go out into the world and make a difference.

This program is designed to develop a personal relationship with the Jewish tradition through interactive learning, student-driven discussions, and timely, relevant topics.

What we know:

- Teens are highly motivated and engaged
- Teens are curious to learn more about why Judaism matters.
- Teens are very busy with academics, extra-curricular activities in school, social action projects in and out of school, and their social lives.

Teens want:

- A relevant program, where they will be among friends and other motivated teenagers for meaningful and exciting experiences.

- A program that engages them in activities that offers unique opportunities from what from what they get in their public or private schools.
- A program that provides opportunities for an evolving personal relationship with their tradition
- A program that creates community
- Peer and mentor relationships
- Direct action and visionary personalities
- A program that helps them begin to see how issues in our community-locally, nationally, internationally-can be viewed through a lens of a young Jewish individual.

Some of the topics we will cover will be

- Anti-Semitism and Holocaust
- Justice and human rights
- Civic engagement

The curriculum is grounded in the idea that we are mandated to help victims and less fortunate. The Jewish people have a history and tradition of standing up for those without voices. We have been in the role of victim and oppressed and it is up to us to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. The year will end with a class trip to Washington DC, and the United States Holocaust Museum and visits with other individuals and agencies involved in community service.

The course of study will be organized around topics and themes relating to these issues. Each unit will consist of:

- Learning sessions/discussions with Rabbi Kaiman or Nancy Gorod

- Values-based projects
- Learning about local institutions and agencies that assist those in need

Calendar for 2018-2019

Some dates may be subject to change. We will inform you in advance.

August

26- Kick off learning session with Rabbi Kaiman at his home – coinciding with the last Journey to Adulthood (J2A) – Life After The Thank You Notes.

- An introduction to what to expect this year, and a sampling of what the Jewish community has to offer you as a young adult.

Please note: This class meets at 12:15pm, not 3:30pm!

September

16- Guest speaker from the Islamic Speakers Bureau

30- Learning/Discussion – Building a “Sukkat Shalom”: creating welcoming peaceful space for others. Do Not Stand Idly By – *Lo Ta’amod Al Dam Reicha*: How Jewish values help us understand and respond to bullying and delegitimizing “Others”

October

14- Trip to community agency helping our Refugee Family

28 - Trip to Center for Civil and Human Rights – Discussion and lesson following

November

4 – *Hazon et HaKol* – Feeding the Hungry Text study and meal preparation/serving for Rebecca’s Tent 4:00

18- Kroger Shopping trip to stock the Jewish Family and Career Service Kosher Food
Pantry

December

2 – TBD

16 – Chanukah Lesson – Bringing light to others. At Shearith. Donation of a toy or
game

January

13 – Interfaith Guest Speaker

27– Holocaust Guest Speaker – Rachel Rothstein, Teacher in Eastern European
History

February

10 - Inclusion: *B'Tzelem Elohim* – What does it mean to be created in the image of
God? Text Study

24 - Movie: *Praying With Lior* at the Synagogue

March

10 – Exhibit: *Anne Frank in the World* at the Anne Frank Museum in Sandy Springs

22-24 - Trip to Washington, DC (details in a later email)

April

14 - Learn with Rabbi Ari and Emily Kaiman– What is enslaving us today?

28 -Yom HaShoah commemoration

May

5 - *Li'Hiyot Am Hofshi B'Artzenu* – To Be a Free People in our own Land – Israel Text
Study and Falafel-making