



TZOHAR 5784/ 2023-2024

TZOHAR is a teen education program designed to bring high-level Jewish educational learning and experiences to 8th through 12th graders from Montgomery County and Washington, DC.

The program meets **Sunday nights (5:30-7:30 PM)** at Ohr Kodesh Congregation and is designed to engage teens in Jewish learning that explores traditional Jewish texts, history, and culture in new ways, and brings an approach of thoughtful inquiry to Jewish study. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

Program Structure

For the first hour, the students explore traditional Jewish text and the relationship of the issues and ideas presented in the text to challenges we face in society today.

During the second hour, students will meet with University of Maryland faculty from the Jewish Studies, Israel Studies, and Religious Studies programs to explore important, surprising moments in Jewish history, culture, and thought.

Dinner is included in the program, allowing for informal discussion and community development among participants.

Partnerships with Hadar and The University of Maryland

We are partnering with Hadar and with the University of Maryland to bring our students an elevated level of excellence and access to expanded resources and activities.

Hadar: The text study section of **TZOHAR's** program prepares students to participate in Hadar's annual Moot Beit Din Competition (<https://www.hadar.org/moot-court-high-school-competition-2022>.) This program gives the students the opportunity to work with an experienced text teacher to research the tradition's position on an ethical issue and present their position before a panel of experts. The subject for **2023-2024 is Technology and Privacy**.

The 2024 Moot Beit Din Competition will be held in New York City, April 4-7. Participation is an additional fee of \$450 for the cost of the program and accommodations (scholarships are available). Participation in the competition is optional.

The University of Maryland: Session meetings will present college-level offerings specially geared to a high school audience and will spark student interest with attention to a wide range of topics, including archaeology, film studies, American Jewish culture, and the diverse history of the Jewish people from ancient Israel to early modern Poland, and from Mizrahi Jewish society to the present-day college campus. Students will have access to online course modules featuring helpful links and optional readings.

Students who maintain a designated standard of attendance and write a short (2 page) response paper on a designated topic will be awarded with a Certificate of Completion from the University of Maryland's Office of Extended Studies.

Please contact [Rabbi Batya Glazer](#), Director of Lifelong Learning, for more information.