

Dear 8th-12th Grade Families,

We are taught that our ancestors crossed through the Red Sea, but in fact, they crossed through the Yam Suph, the REED Sea. Netzer is the Hebrew word for reed. Reeds have been used for millennia to create things and ideas like baskets, roofs, writing utensils, and musical instruments. When we play with the Hebrew root נצר, we find that Netzer is related to three verbs that are connected to our teens: Yatzar-Create, Natzeir-Maintain, Haytzer-Take In. Some of our goals as parents and teachers are for our teens to create deep connections to their Judaism, maintain their friendships and relationships with Beth El and our community, and take in the depth and meaning of our tradition, all while being able to choose elements of their learning.

Today, after months of work and meetings with parents, teens, and the RSY Team, I am proud to announce the beginning of **Netzer: Beth El's Teen Engagement Pilot Program** which will take place on **Sundays from 12:30-1:45pm**. Netzer is based on four values; Connection (Keshet), Depth (Omeq), Meaning (Mashmaut), and Choice (B'chirah). We believe that the pilot program we've created represents these values, and will better suit the needs of our teens.

Netzer is divided into four Sundays. **On the 1st Sunday of the month**, our teens attend their **Mercas (Core) classes by grade level**. The **2nd Sunday** of the month is for **Taglit (Elective) classes for our 8th-9th and 11th-12th grade students**. Electives are dependent on interest. We hope to offer between 3 and 4 electives in the Fall and Spring. The **3rd Sunday is Tikkun, a Social Justice** program for our teens dealing with relevant issues facing our world today. The 4th Sunday, when we have it, will be a **Kehillah (Community/Youth Group)** program. **Confirmation is a part of Netzer**, but will continue in it's own way with the option, per the instructor's discretion, to join Tikkun or Kehillah events.

Our **Madrichim and Mitzvah Corps programs are now OPTIONAL**. Teens may elect to be a Madrichim from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. and/or take part in Mitzvah Core. **Madrichim and Mitzvah Core students will serve in their placements from 10AM-12PM on Sundays AND/OR 6:15-8PM on Wednesdays.**

Like the rest of our Religious School, **Netzer will be online this year.** Netzer will begin with an **online TEEN orientation on Sunday, August 30, 2020 from 12:30-1:45pm. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13th and end on Sunday, May 17, 2021.** Each student will receive their Zoom links on August 30th for the Fall and on December 27th for the Spring.

Our students in Netzer will have at least one to two opportunities to see each other in person in the Fall and in the Spring through The Tent. The Tent will enable our teens to learn and spend time together as a cohort in a safe and socially distant way. **The Tent's tentative schedule and Netzer's Calendar can be found in the FAQ.**

Netzer is a PILOT PROGRAM. We know it's a bit crazy to be running a Pilot Program in the middle of a Pandemic, but we decided that we need to do as much as possible to engage our teens during this crazy time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail at bromano@bethelhebrew.org or on my cell at 985-607-4698. I'd LOVE to talk to and or your teen about Netzer.

[NETZER FAQ AND SCHEDULES](#)

[NETZER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

Netzer Schedule Breakdown

1st Sunday of the Month - Core Classes for 8th-12th graders

8th Grade- Comparative Judaism and Moving Beyond Tolerance: Antisemitism, Diversity, and Equity

9th Grade Comparative Religions and My Israel Story

10th Grade Confirmation

11th/12th Coffee with the Clergy

2nd Sunday of the Month - Taglit (Elective) Classes for 8th-12th Graders

8th/9th Graders (electives together)

10th Grade Confirmation

11th/12th Graders together (electives together)

Elective Options

Eipho HaKitah (Where's the Classroom)? Modern Hebrew Speaking

Two Jews, Three Opinions: Debate with Mr. Siegal

Drama: From Fiddler to Stephen Schwartz

Jewish Art Around the World

Cooking Through the Diaspora

Up, Up and Oy Vey! Jews and Comic Books

**Offerings will depend on interest. A survey will be sent out early next month.

3rd Sunday of the Month - Tikkun (Social Justice)

Grades: All together or Divided in Age Cohorts (Confirmation TBD)

Students will come together to learn about major issues facing our world today.

4th Sunday of the Month - Kehillah (Community Building)

Grades: All together (Confirmation – TBD)

Potential Activities: Youth program run by BEFTY Board/Advisors, Current Events, Team Building Activities

Students will join together for a fun social activity either as part of the Teen Program or through BEFTY.

Madrichim and Mitzvah Corps

OPTIONAL. Teens may elect to be a Madrichim from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. and/or take part in Mitzvah Core. Madrichim and Mitzvah Core students will serve in their placements from 10AM-12PM on Sundays AND/OR 6:15-8PM on Wednesdays.

Mentorship: (Optional)

We recognize that our students need adult role models in their lives who help them to find their path. Any student in 8th-12th grade may sign up to participate

in our mentorship program. Beth El will match your student with either a Jewish mentor through Beth El or in the Jewish Young Professional Community in the DMV. Mentorship can happen during a student's Taglit (Elective) Sunday or can take place on their own time.