

B'nai David-Judea Gesher Class 2018-2019

I. Various Muggles

October 14 – “Honor thy Father and Mother”–You talkin’ to me?

October 21 – “*Mipnai Sayva Takum;*” Aging and the Elderly

October 28 - Understanding Mental Illness

**Hands-on learning about the Special Needs community, with
HaMercaz / Jewish Family Services**

November 4 - Special Training with Sarah Blitzstein of HaMercaz / JFS

November 11 - GESHER volunteers at a HaMerkaz family event at Noah’s Ark at the Skirball! **Please reserve the entire morning!**

November 18 – Our Neighborhood’s Homeless – with special guests from Alexandria House, and Jim Bickhart from the office of Councilmember Paul Koretz . **Parents strongly invited!!**

November 25 – Thanksgiving Weekend; No Session

December 2 - **PARENT & CHILD DAY #1** - Heroes & Values: Is there a connection?

December 9 – Hannukah Weekend; No Session

II. Cousins: A Unique Encounter - Dec. 16 and Feb. 24

The Muslims that our kids encounter in the world news, and the Muslim peers that they will encounter in real-life are likely to be very different from each other. Thanks to our longstanding relationship with the Islamic Center of Southern California we are able to continue this annual exchange of visits, as we break down mutual pre-conceptions, gain an appreciation of how much we have in common, and even talk about things that we feel differently about.

12/16 at BDJ

2/24 at the Islamic Center

III. Siblings: Reform Judaism and Reform Jews

December 23 – When and why did Reform Judaism begin? How is it different here and now?

December 30 – New Year’s Weekend; No Session

January 6 - **Special visit from new friends from Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa, CA!** GESHER will be the Sunday morning destination for the Shomrei Torah youth group’s annual “weekend in LA”. During their visit with us we will have some fun together, and each respectively learn about what Jewish life is like for an Orthodox / Reform Jewish teenager!

IV. Israel: Homeland and Hope

January 13 OR 20 (to be voted upon) - The Ongoing Miracle of the State of Israel

January 27 and February 10 - Our Land, Our Neighbors - The history of the Israeli-Arab conflict, from World War One up through today

(Please note: **No Sessions on February 3 and February 17**)

February 24 – Part 2 of “Cousins” (per above)

V. Tefilla Seminar

March 3 – PARENT and CHILD DAY #2 - “ONE???”

March 10 – “Three steps up: The wisdom of the Amidah”

VI. Torah and Gender

March 17 - Men and Women: Halachik Roles and Modern Perspectives

March 24 - Tzniut: What does it really mean?

VII. The Shoah: Understanding and Commemorating

March 31 - Introduction to our work

April 7 - (extended session, ends at 10:45) – Learning and Writing the Stories for the Yom HaShoah Seder

April 14 - Rehearsal for Seder Yom HaShoah - Ends at 10:45

April 21 & 28 - PESACH BREAK. NO SESSIONS

April 29- (Monday evening) – Final Rehearsal for Seder Yom HaShoah

Wednesday evening, May 1 – SEDER YOM HA'SHOAH

IX. Who are we? - What is Modern Orthodoxy?

May 5 – How do Modern Orthodox Jews understand and apply halacha? Case studies: Hallel on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Daughters reciting Kaddish.

May 12 – Mothers’ Day; No Session

May 19 – Why be “modern?” Is that even the right adjective?