

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES



CLASS OF 2011

***2011/2012 COURSE CATALOG
5771-5772***

***CLASSES BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14***

Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
Welcome & Important Information	1-4
Classes at a Glance.	5-15
College Caravan for Jewish Teens in Grades 11 and 12.	5
 <u>First Period Core Courses: 6:30-7:20 PM</u>	
8 th Grade Core Course	6
9 th Grade Pre-Confirmation Class (Temples Beth Am, Beth Zion, Sinai).	7
9 th Grade Confirmation Class (Temple Beth Tzedek)	7
10 th Grade Confirmation Class (Temples Beth Am, Beth Tzedek, Beth Zion, Sinai).	7
11 th Grade or Unaffiliated in Grades 9 and 10, or Kadimah Graduates	8
Anti-Semitism in the Modern World: A Multi Media Approach	
Ivrit Mugberet	
A Love Affair with Israel	
12 th Grade College Prep.	9
 <u>Second Period Electives: 7:40-8:30 PM</u>	
Fall Semester	
Binyan Leadership Track (full year)	10
10 th Grade: Leadership and the Jewish Teen	
11 th Grade: Jewish Civics Initiative	
Hebrew Workshop (full year).	11
Hot Topics	12
Around the World: A Touch of Jewish Culture, Cooking and History	12
Jewish Lessons in Sports.	12
Kabbalah	13
Who Wrote the Bible?	13
Reel Torah: Take 2: The Book of Exodus	13
Torah Gems: Nuggets of Wisdom from Hassidic Masters (Grades 11 & 12 only)	14
Art as a Bracha	14
 Spring Semester	
Jewish Bioethics	15
Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation in Judaism.	15
Jewish Jam Session	15
Around the World: A Touch of Jewish Culture, Cooking and History	16
Ask the Rabbi	16
Hebrew Illuminated.	16
Kosher Cooking in the Kitchen	16
The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School.	17
High School of Jewish Studies Faculty	18

Welcome to the High School of Jewish Studies

The HSJS is a community institution that attracts and welcomes 8th – 12th grade students from the entire Greater Western New York area. This includes individuals affiliated with synagogues and havurot, as well as individuals not affiliated with a particular Jewish institution or organization. The students embrace a wide range of personal approaches to Judaism and have the unique opportunity to meet Jews of various affiliations and to learn about, experience and understand the broad spectrum of Jewish practice.

As a community institution, the HSJS is able to bring together the total resources of the Jewish community to ensure the highest quality of Jewish high school education. HSJS staff members are rabbis, cantors, educators, and other Jewish role models in the community. They represent all branches of Judaism and are known for their commitment to and respect for Judaism.

MISSION STATEMENT

The High School of Jewish Studies seeks to identify and engage Jewish high school youth in the community and to provide classes and experiences in a broad range of Judaic studies. The school dedicates itself to encouraging a lifetime of Jewish study and observance, participation and responsibility to K'lal Yisrael, the community of Israel. The program strives to instill Jewish values and ethical behavior in response to the challenges of the secular world.

- **Registration**

Read through this catalog thoroughly. You can register by completing the online registration-health form, or you may register in person at the Bureau of Jewish Education during regular office hours.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE FIRST CHOICES, YOU SHOULD REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Classes will be assigned on a first-come, first-served and space-available basis. All elective classes must have a minimum enrollment of six (6) students. To be fully registered, tuition payment must be mailed to the office at 805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, or made by credit card online or telephone, unless other arrangements are made (see below). In addition, all the health information must be filled out for registration to be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: You may deduct \$15.00 from your tuition if the application and full payment are received by September 7, 2011. In the event that full payment presents a financial difficulty, arrangements for a deferred payment schedule may be made through the office. Limited tuition assistance is available. The Tuition Assistance form is also on our web site and should be completed, printed and mailed to Evie Weinstein at the BJE. All information will be kept in strictest confidence.

Special Needs / Inclusion

At the High School of Jewish Studies we believe that every Jewish teenager, **without exception**, has the right to an appropriate Jewish education. Please contact Jill Ginsburg at 923-0020 or jill@bjebuffalo.org for more information.

- **Time and Location**

The HSJS meets Wednesday evening at the Temple Beth Zion Broder Center for Jewish Education, 700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, New York 14226, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

- **Staying in Touch**

Frequent and open communication helps us to improve our school and better meet your needs. The HSJS can be reached in the following ways:

- Telephone: 923-0020, M-F: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Evie Weinstein, Principal
Bette Davidson, Administrator
- **Calls will be received at 400-2329, Wednesday Evening Only, between 5:00 PM and 8:30 PM, WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!**
- Mail: HSJS, Bureau of Jewish Education, 805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo New York 14209
- FAX: 886-7152
- E-mail: evie@bjebuffalo.org or bette@bjebuffalo.org

- **Tuition and Refund Policy**

1. By September 7 - \$475 Early Bird Registration (must be paid in full)
2. September 8 – 13 - \$490
3. September 14+ - \$505 (includes \$15 late registration fee)
4. \$20 discount for each sibling

The fee includes books and materials for most classes, except where noted. Refunds of tuition will be given according to the following formula:

1st week withdrawal	90%
2nd week withdrawal	75%
3rd week withdrawal	50%
4th week withdrawal	25%

We are not able to offer refunds to students who withdraw from the program after the fourth (4th) week of classes. For tuition assistance please see the Tuition Assistance Form.

Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time. Late arrival is very disruptive for everyone.

NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE EARLY WITHOUT A WRITTEN REQUEST BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

- **Visitors**

We welcome visitors to the High School of Jewish Studies. Guests of students are permitted to attend a class, subject to prior arrangement with the principal. Guests must register upon arrival and be introduced to the principal and the instructor before the class begins.

- **Changing Classes**

Transfers are allowed on a “space available” basis only and with the principal’s or administrator’s permission. The teacher will require a permission slip, signed by either the principal or administrator, to permit a student to transfer into the class. After the third session of each class, students may not transfer from one course to another.

- **Independent Study**

Under exceptional circumstances, a student may arrange to earn credit at the HSJS through guided independent study. A student seeking to earn credits this way must submit an independent study contract to the principal before the semester begins. The contract must describe: (1) which teacher will supervise the independent study; (2) what the content of the work will be; (3) how the work will be evaluated; (4) the reason for the independent study.

- **Graduation**

The High School of Jewish Studies graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

A student must attend the HSJS (or an equivalent program in a religious school or Kadimah) for a minimum of four years (grades 8—12) to graduate.

- Graduation from the HSJS requires attendance through 12th grade.

There is a required \$35 graduation fee for all students receiving graduation diplomas.

- **Use of Temple Beth Zion**

We are guests of Temple Beth Zion. Please respect these facilities and the materials in the classrooms and open spaces. Please tidy up after yourself and follow all rules regarding building access.

- **THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR THE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AND WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**
- **BULLYING OF ANY TYPE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

- **Israel Information**

Have we got money for YOU — a parent’s guide for teen travel to Israel!

A summer experience in Israel can shape your child’s Jewish future. Please call Jill Ginsburg at the Bureau, 923-0020, for further information about the many opportunities, grants and scholarships available to make a teen summer trip to Israel more affordable. An Israel Information Night will be held on Wednesday, February 15, at 6:00 PM for all students.

Snow Closing Information

Cancellation of classes will be announced on WBEN radio (930) and Channels 2, 4 and 7, and if time allows, by our automated telephone system.



• S.A.T. Test Center

The Bureau of Jewish Education is a test site for the S.A.T. exams. We will host the SAT examinations at Temple Beth Tzedek, 621 Getzville Road, Amherst, on the following Sundays:

- November 6, 2011
- December 4, 2011
- January 29, 2012
- March 11, 2012
- May 6, 2012
- June 3, 2012

Exam begins: 8:00 AM (Building opens at 7:30 AM) Tests may be canceled if registration is less than three students.

Please contact Mary McCarthy at Educational Testing Service at (609) 771-7525 for additional information or to register for the exam on one of the Sundays listed above.

• The Buffalo Jewish Teen's Phone Directory

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation	639-8361
Education Department, Anti-Defamation League	(212) 885-7775
College Education Dept., Union for Reform Judaism	(212) 249-0100
High School of Jewish Studies, Evie Weinstein, Principal	923-0020
Holocaust Resource Center (Sylvia Schwartz, Executive Director)	634-9535
Israel Aliyah Center	(604) 266-5333
Israel Consulate	(415) 398-8885
Israel Programs and Scholarships (BJE, Jill Ginsburg)	923-0020
Israel Government Tourist Office	(212) 499-5660
Jewish Family Service (Counseling and Resources)	883-1914
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo	886-7750
National Conference of Synagogue Youth, Orthodox	634-3108
Temple Beth Am – Beth Am Temple Youth (BATY)	633-8877
Temple Beth Zion Youth (TBaZY)	836-6565
United Synagogue Youth, Conservative	
Temple Beth Tzedek	838-3232
Temple Sinai Youth Group	834-0708
World Zionist Organization	(800) 27ISRAEL

BINYAN II LEADERSHIP TRACK

THE COLLEGE CARAVAN

ATTENTION ALL JEWISH TEENS IN GRADES 11 AND 12

Join the College Caravan and enjoy a taste of college with your friends!

- College tours!
- Meet with Jewish students on campus and see what is happening Jewishly!
- Kosher meals and snacks provided!
- Dates and times: Except for the Boston trip, buses will leave from the Broder Building at 9:00 AM. Return times will vary.

Sunday

October 16 – University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Melon

October 23 – Binghamton

November 11-13 – Boston Area Caravan**

*There will be a Wednesday evening visit to UB in October.

Date and time to be announced.

** Call Evie Weinstein at 923-0020 for more information



Ben Charlton, Caravan Leader

Ben, a member of our faculty, is originally from Bethesda, Maryland. Ben moved to Buffalo in 2006 to study at UB, where he received his Master's in Economics. His enthusiasm and dedication to Judaism were a welcome addition to Hillel of Buffalo, where he spent a year and a half as student president. His involvement in the Buffalo Jewish community has continued to grow as a Hebrew teacher at Temple Beth Zion, Gesher School, and the Machar youth advisor at Temple Beth Tzedek. Ben is excited to continue his work with the HSJS, where he can share his Jewish pride with the students.



WEDNESDAY EVENING

6:30 – 8:30 PM

All classes begin promptly as scheduled. Our educational program is best served when students are in their seats and ready to begin at the appointed time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Each synagogue has a required first period course for students.

Grades 9 - 11: If you are unaffiliated with a synagogue, you may register for one of the first period non-Confirmation electives (see Page 9).

Required classes for all students in Grades 8 and 12

FIRST PERIOD CORE COURSE FOR ALL EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

1 CREDIT — Full Year

This class will be a round-robin of two 14-week sessions. Each student will rotate through both of these courses during the year.

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION AND CULTURE

Cantor Sharon Colbert

Do you ever wonder why various Jewish people express their Jewishness differently? Do you ever wonder why Jewish people do certain things? Do you ever walk into a synagogue and have no idea what everyone is doing? Do you ever hear unusual Jewish terms, expressions or words and wonder what they mean? Judaism can be confusing, but it is also a very rich and exciting religion about which there is much to learn. This exciting class will answer questions through music, prayer and fun to find answers while learning new things about philosophy, rituals, how to's and practice.



HISTORY ALIVE: JEWS IN THE NEWS

Marta Braiterman

Using broadcast, internet and textbooks, our exploration of recent and current Jewish world events will evaluate 2010-2011 in terms of Israel's importance in the Obama administration, the changing face of anti-Semitism and Jewish contributions in the Arts and Sciences.



FIRST PERIOD CORE CLASSES FOR GRADES NINE AND TEN

*Each synagogue requires a first period course for 9th-10th grade students.
Students may only register for the class offered by their synagogue.*

If you are unaffiliated with a synagogue, you may register for one of the first period non-Confirmation electives (see Page 9).

GRADE NINE

TEMPLE BETH AM, TEMPLE BETH ZION AND TEMPLE SINAI

PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASS

Susan Goldberg Schwartz

1 CREDIT– Full Year

Teens wrestle with questions concerning G-d. This course will discuss the image of G-d that you have been taught or believed since you were a child, and you will ponder a new G-d image that you are beginning to develop. Learn more about the world around your religion and your own personal beliefs.

TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rabbi Perry Netter

1 CREDIT– Full Year

GRADE TEN

TEMPLE BETH AM and TEMPLE SINAI

CONFIRMATION AND AFFIRMATION CLASS

Rabbi Irwin Tanenbaum and

Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein

1 CREDIT– Full Year

TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rabbi Perry Netter

1 CREDIT– Full Year

TEMPLE BETH ZION

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rabbi Gary Pokras

Rabbi Laurie Green

1 CREDIT– Full Year



FIRST PERIOD CORE CLASS FOR GRADE TWELVE BINYAN II LEADERSHIP

This course has three components!

COLLEGE PREP!

David Gordon
1 CREDIT- Full Year

Lech I'cha

One of the most exciting and anxiety-producing times in a family's life cycle is when a teen prepares to transition from life as a high school student to life on a college campus. You are told *lech I'cha* — go off and find yourself and you are only too eager to go forth. But, have you been given the necessary tools for the trip ahead? Join David Gordon to discover these necessary tools; we help you make the transition time from high school to college a part of your Jewish life cycle.



Embrace Diversity



As you move on to the next step of your life, you will be meeting, socializing, learning and 'dorming' with students whose culture is entirely different from yours. This semester you will have the opportunity to meet special guest speakers from different ethnic and cultural groups within the Buffalo community. Get a head start on learning about diversity as you go forward.



Leadership Development

Students will develop and carry out a marketing plan for interested 7th grade students and their parents.



SECOND PERIOD ELECTIVE COURSES

BINYAN LEADERSHIP TRACK

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES FOR GRADES 10-11

Binyan is a three-year track, starting in grade 10. It is designed to provide our students with skills, knowledge and experience to prepare them for their future.

Jewish values are the basis of *Binyan* and will be emphasized in all three levels. Participants will learn that social activism, political activism and leadership are all based on a strong Jewish value system. Participants will meet leaders and role models from the local, national and international arena, and also learn how service and volunteer activities can make the world a better place.

Students will be given the necessary skills to upgrade their college application resumes.

GRADE 10 – LEADERSHIP AND THE JEWISH TEEN

Jill Ginsburg

1 CREDIT

This course will feature special guest speakers, leadership games, intense discussions and insightful activities. Students will also have the opportunity to plan and implement a school-wide program.



GRADE 11 – JEWISH CIVICS INITIATIVE

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

David Gordon

1 CREDIT

The curriculum for this course is based on the Tikkun Olam/World Repair Manual that helps students learn how to be more active citizens of the Jewish people. The curriculum offers perspectives on public policy and Jewish values, and includes a trip to Washington, D.C., March 25-28, 2012.

A special application is required for this course and is available by contacting Evie Weinstein at 923-0020 or evie@bjebuffalo.org. Also, there is an additional cost of \$625 for participants for the trip to Washington. The Bureau of Jewish Education subsidizes this trip and scholarship money may be available upon request.



These second period electives on Wednesday evenings are open to 8th -12th grade students unless otherwise indicated.

PLEASE NOTE: Each student must select **either a full-year option, **or** a FALL **and** a SPRING semester option.**

ALL ELECTIVE CLASSES MUST HAVE A MINIMUM ENROLLMENT OF SIX (6) STUDENTS.

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE CLASSES: GRADES 8 - 12

HEBREW WORKSHOP

Orna McNamara

1 CREDIT

Be introduced to the lively dynamic Hebrew language, as students of all abilities are encouraged to join this tailor-made class to meet all levels of needs. We will structure the curriculum around student’s needs in a fun group atmosphere. Whether Hebrew class seems like a lifetime ago, or it’s fresh on your mind, you will complete this course with a new level of Hebrew proficiency.

ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Teit (T)	Cheit (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	Hei (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Beit (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
ס	נ	מ	ל	כ	י			
Samekh (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	פ	צ	ע	
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Reish (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzadei (Tz)	Tzadei (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pei (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)



FALL SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES: GRADES 8 - 12

HOT TOPICS

Susan Goldberg Schwartz

½ CREDIT

Life issues are complex. Abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation, the death penalty, peer pressure and bullying are just some of the issues covered in this interactive class. You will be given comprehensive resources and tools for grappling with these complex issues using Jewish values and traditions as a base to find YOUR answers to these modern day dilemmas.

AROUND THE WORLD: A TOUCH OF JEWISH CULTURE, COOKING AND HISTORY

Nurit Fischer

½ CREDIT



Jews have spread to many diverse areas around the world, creating a variety of unique Jewish cultures in each place they settled. In this course, we will explore various societies through many styles of cooking, all influenced by Jewish laws, traditions, and holidays. We will also get a chance to eat all the foods we make, as well as learn about each culture through fun, hands-on lessons. Come join us for a journey around the world!



JEWISH LESSONS IN SPORTS

Rabbi Allan Farkas

½ CREDIT



Sports have played a strong role in world culture for thousands of years. The stories of athletes inspire a great deal of discussion and attention throughout the world. The Jewish community also loves sports. From Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, Tiger Woods and countless others, there are so many lessons we can learn of how-to and how not-to live our lives.

Jewish Lessons in Sports seeks to study inspirational moments in recent sports history and to discover countless **Jewish** lessons that can be learned from them.





KABBALAH

Rabbi Irwin Tanenbaum

½ CREDIT



The Kabbalah teaches that each person was born with the potential to receive great gifts from the spiritual world. However, in order to receive these gifts, we must deserve them through the actions of our lives. What actions are these? There is spiritual work we must do *for* ourselves to transform ourselves.

The Kabbalah teaches us how to recognize the negative aspects of our lives that are holding us back from being and receiving all that we can be and become. Join Rabbi Tanenbaum and learn what Kabbalah is really about!

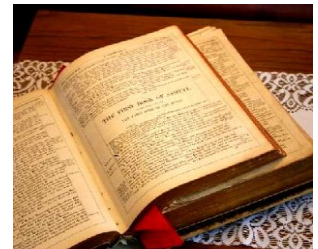
WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein

½ CREDIT

We will closely read Biblical texts and, together, look at what scholars have said about this question, and come up with our own conclusions.

Have you wondered about big Jewish questions like this one? Are you inquisitive and open-minded? Are you willing to listen to views that may differ radically from your own? If so, you will find the work you do in this class invaluable as you sort out your own Judaism and your own Jewish identity.

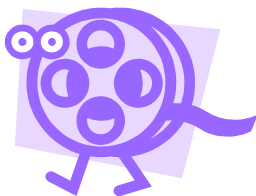


REEL TORAH: TAKE 2: THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Rabbi Laurie Green

1/2 CREDIT

If you missed out on the first Reel Torah last year, don't miss the sequel. And if you enjoyed Reel Torah, come back! New movies, new TV shows, new Torah portions. It's a surprise what this new session has in store for you. Will it be *Curb Your Enthusiasm* or *South Park* or Academy Award Winners or *Glee*? You'll just have to register to see.





TORAH GEMS: Nuggets of Wisdom from the Hassidic Masters

Rabbi Gary Pokras – Students in Grades 11 & 12 Only

½ CREDIT

Buried deep in the text of Torah are precious hidden meanings, values and truths. Each week we will use excerpts from *Itturei Torah* (Torah Gems), an anthology of Hassidic commentaries, to add new depth to our understanding of Torah. No Hebrew is required.



ART AS A BRACHA

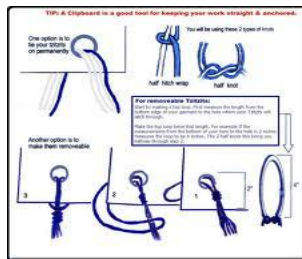
Cathy Shuman Miller

1/2 CREDIT

Art, like prayer, can bring us closer to G-d.

Students will create and experience art as a bracha. They will tie-dye, tie tzitzit and handwrite personal brachot around the necks of their expressive creations. By wearing tallit we can surround ourselves with G-d and live under G-d's sheltering wing.

Join Cathy Miller, Hebrew High's artist in residence, for this fun and creative experience.



Alumni Night

SPRING SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES: GRADES 8 - 12

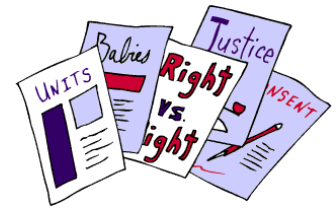


JEWISH BIOETHICS

Rabbi Irwin Tanenbaum

½ CREDIT

As Jewish thinkers consider issues like euthanasia, abortion and organ donation, they articulate diverse positions on the relationship between Jewish law, Jewish ethics and secular ethics. But one principle is most prominent: the sanctity of human life and the duty to save and preserve it wherever possible. Join our own Rabbi Tanenbaum in this thought-provoking and relevant discussion!



RACE, GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN JUDAISM – GRADES 10-12 ONLY

Rabbi Laurie Green and Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein

½ CREDIT

A black Jewish rapper? A transsexual Israeli pop star? A biracial gay rabbi?

Which of these people really exist? . . . All three!

Just imagine we are only a generation removed from a time when there were no women rabbis and GLBT (Gay/Lesbian/Bi-Sexual/Transgender), African-American and Asian Jews may have been shunned in American synagogues. Today, great progress has been made in making our Jewish communities more diverse and inclusive, but we still have a long way to go. This course is designed to open up a dialogue on how Judaism has traditionally viewed the "other," challenges we continue to face, and the new initiatives in prayer and synagogue life to ensure that anyone who walks through our doors can feel welcome and at home.



JEWISH JAM SESSION

Susan Goldberg Schwartz

½ CREDIT

We are looking for drummers, guitarists, singers and anyone who loves music!



Bring your instruments and your voices as we create our own Jewish Rock Band; learning and performing songs of current Jewish musicians will be part of this experience.

AROUND THE WORLD: A TOUCH OF JEWISH CULTURE, COOKING AND HISTORY

Nurit Fischer

½ CREDIT

Jews have spread to many diverse areas around the world, creating a variety of unique Jewish cultures in each place they settled. In this course, we will explore various societies through many styles of cooking, all influenced by Jewish laws, traditions, and holidays. We will also get a chance to eat all the foods we make, as well as learn about each culture through fun, hands-on lessons. Come join us for a journey around the world!



ASK THE RABBI

Rabbi Allan Farkas

½ CREDIT



This popular class lets you get to decide what to learn! Join us for this exciting and spontaneous course in which you will determine the topics and questions discussed in class. Subjects will range from G-d, practices, history, sexuality, Jewish mysticism and much more. What you always wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid to ask!



HEBREW ILLUMINATED

Cathy Shuman Miller

½ CREDIT

Whether or not you're an artist, you will love this creative class with our "Artist in Residence," Cathy Shuman Miller. Using watercolor, collage, paper cuts and more, you will be exploring Jewish art and integrating it with the written word.



KOSHER COOKING IN THE KITCHEN – GRADES 8 AND 9 ONLY!

Robin Kurss

½ CREDIT

Join *Chef Extraordinaire*, Robin Kurss, in this fun and interactive class. You will be cooking, eating and learning the Art of Kosher cooking!

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES

Wednesday Evening

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School



6:30-8:45 PM — Classes Begin September 14

**Explore! Challenge! Experience! Define!
Study! Agree! Disagree! Connect! Learn!**

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW — BUT WOULD LIKE TO!

Join us every week and we'll give you 5,772 years!

What is the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School?

This is a university-quality program of Judaic studies that imparts essential mastery of Judaism for the busy adult. The course offers a systematic, written curriculum, integrating Jewish practices, holidays, history, ethics, ideas and values using primary texts in English.

It is an international network of schools situated in 65+ cities in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa.

It is a unique approach to Jewish learning that integrates the needs of every student, from whatever background, so that Judaism is understood in today's times.

There are no prerequisites, grades, exams or homework. Graduates receive a Certificate of Jewish Studies from Hebrew University.

To learn more about the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, please go to www.fmams.org.il

Two Year Course Outline

FIRST YEAR

The Purposes of Jewish Living

The ultimate purposes of Judaism and essential Jewish theological concepts and ideas as they unfold in the Torah, the Talmud and other sacred texts. Students are given the tools to understand the “functional terminology” of American Jewish life by analyzing the meanings and richness of many commonly-used expressions, thus uniting practices with reason.

The Rhythms of Jewish Living

An introduction to the ideas, beliefs and practices that define and shape Jewish living. Students will explore central ideas which mold the patterns of daily, weekly, monthly and yearly cycles, along with life-cycle events.

SECOND YEAR

The Dramas of Jewish Living Through the Ages

A chronological study and analysis of rich historical texts through which insight is gained into the central dramas of Jewish life. Included in these historical texts are formal accounts of the events that occurred, legal documents, rabbinic response, letters and poetry.

The Ethics of Jewish Living Through the Ages

A text-centered approach to the study of Jewish ethical principles. Ethical issues which emerge as a result of interpersonal relationships, sexuality, aging, death, family and the community will be explored through materials from the Torah, Talmud, response literature and other commentaries, both classical and modern.

FMAMS 2011-2012

Faculty

Purposes of Jewish Living

Dr. Gerald Berkowitz

Rhythms of Jewish Living

Marta Braiterman

Ethics of Jewish Living

Rabbi Perry Netter

Dramas of Jewish Living

Dr. Aaron Hughes

Classes Begin

Wednesday, September 14, 2011
at 6:30 PM

Temple Beth Zion Broder Center
700 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, New York

Orientation
For First-Year Students
Wednesday, September 14
5:00 PM
Broder Center

MELTON TEXTS

First-Year Students

- *Purposes and Rhythms Student Readers* from Hebrew University
- *JPS Hebrew-English Tanakh* – The traditional Hebrew text and the new JPS Translation, Second Edition

Second-Year Students

- *Dramas and Ethics Student Readers* from Hebrew University
- *The Rutledge Atlas of Jewish History* by Martin Gilbert, Sixth Edition

For more information about the program, or to inquire about other details, please contact Ethel Melzer, Buffalo Site Director, at 923-0020, or e-mail at: melton@bjebuffalo.org

HIGH SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Rivke Berkowitz
Marta Braiterman
Ben Charlton
Cantor Sharon Colbert
Rabbi Allan Farkas
Nurit Fischer
Jill Ginsburg
David Gordon
Rabbi Laurie Green
Robin Kurss
Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein
Bonnie Levine
Orna McNamara
Cathy Shuman Miller
Rabbi Perry Netter
Rabbi Gary Pokras
Susan Goldberg Schwartz
Rabbi Irwin Tanenbaum
Evie Weinstein

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION STAFF

Evie Weinstein, Executive Director, High School of Jewish Studies Principal
Ethel Melzer, Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Site Director
Jill Ginsburg, Director Yad B'Yad and Community Programs
Ben Charlton, Binyan II Leadership Track
Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D., Coordinator, Jewish Buffalo Archives
Bette Davidson, HSJS Administrative Assistant and BJE Bookkeeper
Rita Goldman, Administrator of Technology and Communication
Mindy Ponivas, Office Administrator
Administrative Assistant: Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, Yad B'Yad