

## ***B'ruchim Haba'im!* Welcome to Midrasha!!!**

Dear Midrasha Students and Parents,

Welcome to an exciting new year of Midrasha, the seventh through twelfth grade Jewish Studies Program for the city of Tulsa! We are looking forward to a year of Jewish exploration and celebration for the students of our community. Midrasha is an institute of higher Jewish learning. The educational program is designed to provide the teenagers of our community challenging and rewarding experiences together with a variety of formal and informal cultural, educational and social activities.

Midrasha is a cooperative effort of Congregation B'nai Emunah, Temple Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. The B'nai Israel Board of Education, with representatives from all three institutions, oversees the curriculum and program. We, in our roles as Directors of Education, direct the program. We are collaborating to create a "better than ever" Midrasha. Sharing the leadership and administration of this program is an exciting part of our job and we enjoy a very productive relationship as we provide this successful program for our youth. This brochure includes information about course offerings, expectations, registration, as well as program descriptions and additions. It will help you throughout the school year. However, the course selections for the second semester will be mailed at a later date. Please help us to facilitate a smooth beginning to our year by returning them in a timely fashion. ***Students, return your registration forms as early as possible to have the best opportunity to get your first choice courses!***

Please feel free to contact either of us at any time for additional information, or if you have suggestions or concerns. Dr. Gregg Woitte is the B'nai Israel Education Chair this year. He can be reached at [gswoitte@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gswoitte@sbcglobal.net). We are looking forward to an outstanding year of Jewish learning together.

B'Shalom,

Moreh Eliyahu Krigel, M.A.  
918-585-KIDS  
[eliyahu@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:eliyahu@bnaiemunah.com)

Morah Jennifer Lorch, MAEd, MBA  
918-392-8483  
[school@templetulsa.com](mailto:school@templetulsa.com)

**NOTE:** **Students in grades 7-8 will begin the year on Wednesday evening, August 24 with a special program beginning with a pizza dinner and a taste of Midrasha from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Synagogue. The reason for the dinner is to strengthen our relationship and get to know each other.**

**Students in all grades will begin classes Wednesday, August 31 and complete late registration if necessary. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, so come early to visit and finish the registration process. The program on August 31 will conclude at 9:00 p.m. at the Synagogue.**

**Classes will be held at CBE first semester and at TI second semester!**

# Information You Need to Know

## *Hours*

All Midrasha classes for students in both the middle school and the high school will take place from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The hours for Midrasha will remain the same throughout the year. Classes will begin on time. Students may come at 7:00 if they want more time to socialize!!!

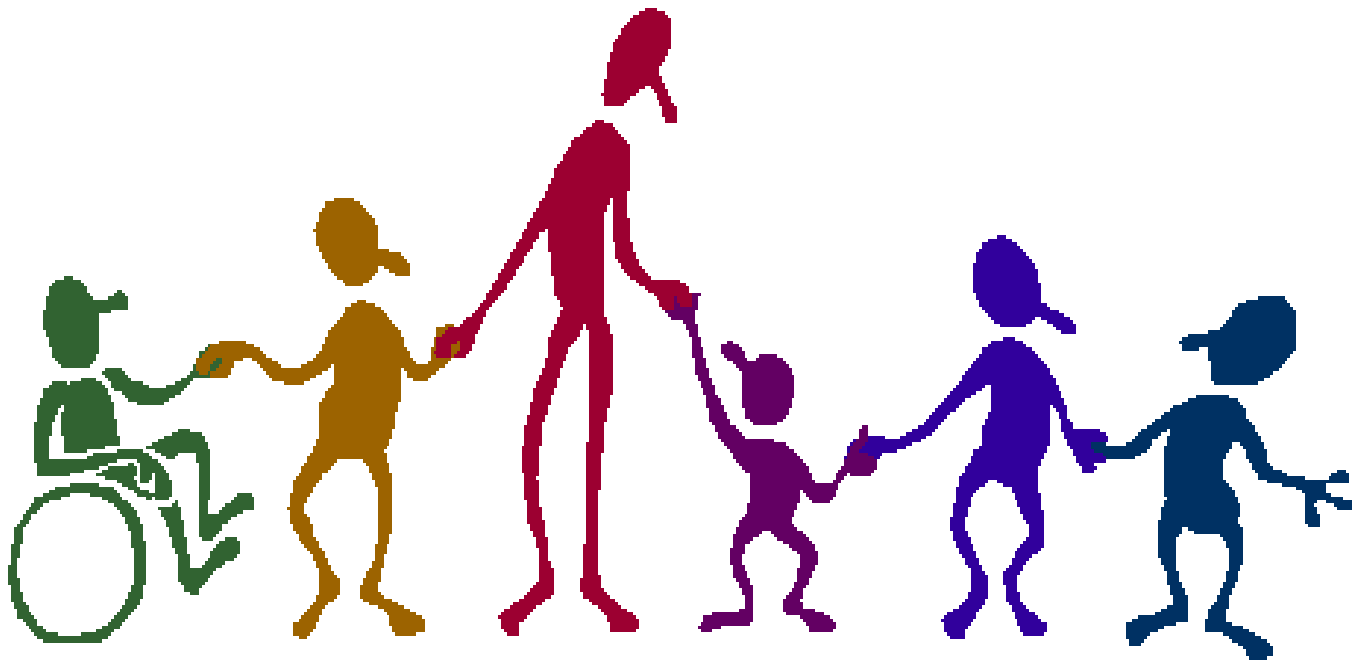
<b>Hour 1</b>	<b>7:15-8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>8:00-8:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Hour 2</b>	<b>8:15-9:00 p.m.</b>

## *Location*

**Classes and programs for the fall semester will take place at Congregation B'nai Emunah** at 1719 S. Owasso Avenue, actually the corner of Peoria and E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Spring semester classes will be at Temple Israel, located at 2004 East 22 Place (behind Utica Square). Graduation will be at CBE on May 9, 2012.

## *Credit*

**To receive credit for Midrasha courses, students must attend at least 70% of all classes or complete a make-up assignment. Attendance records are maintained through the school offices.**



# 2011-2012 Calendar ----- Luach 5772

August 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2012						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2012						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2012						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



April 2012						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



May 2012						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

[www.tulsamidrasha.org](http://www.tulsamidrasha.org)

The Synagogue: Congregation  
B'nai Emunah  
1729 S. Owasso, Tulsa, OK, 74152  
Office: 918-585-KIDS (5437)  
Fax: 918-747-9696  
Cell: 918-808-4481  
[Eliyahu@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:Eliyahu@bnaiemunah.com)  
[www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com)

Temple Israel  
2004 East 22 Place  
Tulsa, OK, 74152  
Phone: 918-392-8483  
[school@templetulsa.com](mailto:school@templetulsa.com)  
[www.templetulsa.com](http://www.templetulsa.com)

 School Break / Holiday  
 Midrasha Trips

 Specials During Midrasha  
 Midrasha: First Semester at the Synagogue and Second Semester at the Temple from 7:15-9:00

# ***IVRIYA CHADASH:*** **MIDRASHA'S MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE** **PROGRAM PARTS ONE AND TWO**

Hebrew has, for centuries, been an essential skill for knowledgeable Jews everywhere. It is the language that ties us together as a people as we celebrate together, study Torah, pray, and connect with the Land of Israel. The knowledge of Hebrew can help us feel at home among Jews anywhere in the world. We share the same language of prayer, Torah, songs, and stories. What Jew is not familiar with “Hava Nagila” or the “Shema?” While very different in their context, this Hebrew song and prayer are something that Jews all over the world have in common.

Through our elective Ivriya Chadasha Program students will develop the skills to read, write and speak Modern Hebrew. These skills will enhance those already learned during Hebrew School through the study of prayer and classical Hebrew.

It is also important to note that as in any language acquisition class, there will be weekly homework. It is very difficult to master a language without at least a minimal amount of daily practice. There will be a limited amount of weekly homework. Students will be given homework (10-15 minutes) after every session. The homework is to reinforce the material learned in class and will cover no new material. Students are encouraged to call the instructor for help any time during the semester.

**Everyone is encouraged and welcome to enter the program whether you have participated in Ivriya in previous years or not.** Students will be placed in classes according to their skills in order to maximize the experience for everyone. There will be up to two levels for our middle school students and two to four levels for our high school students depending on registration. **Ivriya Chadasha will allow everyone to find a comfortable entry place in the program.**

Students participating in Ivriya Chadasha may find that their participation overlaps with other required classes needed for graduation. Their work in Ivriya Chadasha will be accepted in place of those other requirements as our curriculum for this program has been developed to ensure these students receive a well-balanced and rewarding Jewish Education.

Ivriya Part One with Rabbi Fitzerman is for middle and high school students just entering the Hebrew program for the first time. Ivriya Part Two is for students who have already taken Ivriya.



# The Middle School

Students in seventh and eighth grade are ready to deepen their knowledge of Torah, Prophets and Writings and to gain a greater understanding of the tenets of Judaism and Judaism's relationship to other religious traditions in our world. Students are also ready to explore the role that Judaism plays in their physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development. The Midrasha curriculum for these grades consists of core study, which strives to meet these goals.

## *The Grade Seven Curriculum*

The first semester of seventh grade begins with an introduction to the Midrasha community. Our faculty will help our seventh graders join together with their peers from both congregations. Together, they will focus on strengthening their Jewish identities as they learn about the expectations of the Midrasha program.

Students beginning Midrasha in the seventh grade year will participate in two courses each semester. This year's special focus is the students' growing commitment to Judaism.

### ***HOUR 1:***

#### **“The Voices of the Prophets and YOU!” with Moreh Alex Prescott and Moreh Harris Prescott**

As these students are involved in the important process of becoming B'nai Mitzvah, they are preparing to read Torah and Haftarah and write their interpretations. In this course they will become more familiar with the prophets through small group and/or individual research directly linked to their upcoming simcha. Students will research the prophet from their weekly portion. They will examine the prophet's character, historical events of the times, and themes of their writings. We will utilize a multitude of resources to find ways that the writings of the Prophets shape our everyday lives.

**OR**

#### **Ivriya Chadasha Middle School Division Part Two with Morah Ofira Shoham**

This class is open to Seventh and Eighth grade students who wish to continue their Hebrew language studies. Modern Hebrew language will be studied through reading, writing and speaking. Materials will include modern day songs and stories as well as basic vocabulary and grammar. Classes will meet both Sundays and Wednesdays. Students will be evaluated for proper placement.

### ***HOUR 2:***

#### **“B'nai Mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Emunah” OR “B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Israel” with Moreh Eliyahu Krigel with Moreh Jeff Chasen**

Students will participate in the section associated with their respective congregations. In the B'nai Mitzvah course students will investigate what it means to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah

and accept the responsibilities of an “adult member” of the Jewish community. The Institute of Southern Jewish Life B’nai Mitzvah Handbook will be used as a resource in these classes.

During the second semester of grade seven, all students will begin their study of “Ethics and Values” and will either begin Torah study in the class, “Torah, Torah, Torah” or continue with Ivriya Chadasha.

## ***The Grade Eight Curriculum***

### ***HOURS 1 and 2:***

Students will meet together and take “Our Bodies” first hour and then and “Torah, Torah, Torah” second hour unless they enroll in the Ivriya program (Hebrew program). Ivriya will be in place of the Torah class.

### ***HOUR 1***

#### **“Our Bodies—Created in God’s Image” with Dr. Jan Finer, Dr. Vincent Bryan, and Dr. Gregg Woitte**

This exciting, dedicated team of physicians will guide our Jewish teens in an exploration of their physical, emotional, and spiritual development. This course covers Judaism’s views on the responsibility we have to care for and respect our bodies and ourselves. Experts will cover topics such as sex and birth control, substance abuse and eating disorders. Parents will receive a syllabus of the topics to be covered. This class will be divided into two groups due to the large enrollment of students in this particular grade level.

### ***HOUR 2***

#### **“Torah, Torah, Torah” with Moreh Harris Prescott and Moreh Jeff Krigel**

This course continues our students’ study of the characters, historical events, and the messages of our most sacred of texts. We will utilize a multitude of resources to find ways Torah shapes our everyday lives. Students will also continue their study of how to analyze biblical texts in a more formal way.

#### **“Rosetta Stone Hebrew: Ivriya Middle School Division Part One” with Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman**

**(1 Credit – Elective)**

Jumpstart your Hebrew studies in this supervised experience of electronic language acquisition. Rabbi Fitzerman will lead students through Module I of Rosetta Stone Hebrew, the most important tool for rapid language development now available. Students will be required to attend class on Wednesday evening and sign in for one additional hour of study each week at a time negotiated with the instructor. Ivriya Part Two is for students who have already taken Ivriya.

Ivriya Part One with Rabbi Fitzerman is for middle and high school students just entering the Hebrew program for the first time.

**“Ivriya Middle School Division Part Two” with Morah Ofira Shoham**

This class is open to Seventh and Eighth grade students who wish to continue their Hebrew language studies. Modern Hebrew language will be studied through reading, writing and speaking. Material will include modern day songs and stories as well as basic vocabulary and grammar. Classes will meet both Sundays and Wednesdays. Students will be evaluated for proper placement.

## **The High School**

The faculty in the High School Midrasha program strives to provide our students with the opportunity to mold an individualized program of Jewish Studies to meet their needs for continued Jewish learning. Within the framework of a series of required credits, students are encouraged to choose courses in a variety of Jewish topics that are of interest to them.

***Midrasha Graduation Expectations –***

Upon completion of the four years of the High School Midrasha program, students will have taken at least 14 semester credits, with distribution in the following manner:

**7 requirements from the following:**

<b>1 Bible</b>	<b>1 Ethics</b>	<b>1 Israel</b>
<b>1 Jewish Literature</b>	<b>1 Rabbinics</b>	
<b>1 Philosophy/Theology</b>	<b>1 Jewish History</b>	
	<b><u>+ 7 Electives</u></b>	

**14 TOTAL (See Midrasha Flowchart)**

# ***FALL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES***

## ***GRADES 9 – 12***

### ***HOUR I***

#### **“The Israeli Experience” with Morah Edna Lapidot (1 Credit – Israel)**

This class will explore Israel advocacy on all levels. Where do you take your Israel experience after having traveled to the Holy Land in the past. Diving into topics ranging from facing future anti-Israel rhetoric on campus to modern Israel and Zionist history, this course will give you the tools needed for effective advocacy. Students will also encounter conversational Hebrew throughout the course and will help to initiate a project relating to Israel on their own choosing. In addition, students will help to establish an Education Bridge connection with high school kids in Israel through Partnership2Gether.

#### **"Megillot and More" with Rabbi Charles Sherman (1 Credit – Bible, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders)**

How did Esther save the Jewish people? Who was Ruth and why do we read about her story on Shavuot? Was Jonah really swallowed by a whale? Five little Bible books - *Esther*, *Lamentations*, *Proverbs*, *Ruth*, and *Song of Songs* - each is a Megillah, an individual scroll. These are important books, and each is read on a Jewish holiday. For each scroll we will explore the biblical characters mentioned and the historical events that were taking place when each scroll was written. We will also read the *Book of Jonah*, about one of the world's greatest prophets.

#### **“Ivriya Chadasha High School Division Part Two” with Morah Ofira Shoham (1 Credit)**

This class is open to Ninth through Twelfth grade students who wish to continue their Hebrew Language studies. Modern Hebrew language will be studied through reading, writing and speaking. Materials will include modern day songs and stories as well as vocabulary and grammar. For those planning a trip to Israel during their high school years the class will cover useful language for travel in Israel. Students will be evaluated for proper placement. There may be more than one section of this class based on the students' abilities as they enter or continue on in the program. *Students are welcome to begin Ivriya at any age or grade.* Ivriya Part Two is for students who have already taken Ivriya. Ivriya Part One with Rabbi Fitzerman is for High School students just entering the Hebrew program for the first time.

#### **“Jewish Jamming” with Moreh Eliyahu Krigel and Morah Elizabeth Cohen (1 Credit – Philosophy/Theology)**

This class will survey the plethora of modern and contemporary Jewish and Israeli music both in theory and practice. In the theory component, we will have an opportunity to listen and explore Israeli hip hop music and its affect on the Israeli society through commentary and social critique. We will also be able to listen to other non-Israeli but still Jewish artists such as Matisyahu and

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and examine their lyrics and their affect on Jewish life. For the practice piece and in the spirit of a Jewish rock band, students will be encouraged to bring their own musical instruments. During the second half of the class, students will be able to learn how to jam along with modern Jewish music in a non-judgmental environment. This class is for the novice as well as the accomplished musician. Students will also explore basic Jewish techniques related to quieting the mind and focusing on the breath. No musical ability is needed for this course, just a positive attitude and the desire to take musical risks.

**“The Jewish Baker” with Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman**  
**(1 Credit – Elective)**

A civilization is defined by many elements, including what happens in the kitchen. Some of our most powerful Jewish experiences happen at the family and Synagogue table, where identity and connection are reinforced by the traditional foods of the Jewish community. This course will concentrate on baking as a way of creating important connections and enduring memories. It is open to students who baked with Rabbi Fitzerman in Spring 2011, as well as new students. Please note that this semester will focus on baked good appropriate to the fall calendar.

**“A Jew-ry of Your Peers” with Moreh Jeff Chasen**  
**(1 Credit – Ethics)**

Midrasha is your time, and we will discuss your topics. We will look for answers from other and from Jewish sources and resources, focusing on social action and interaction. Students will participate in teaching and leading discussion. NOTE: This class will be limited to approximately 8 students to promote the best possible discussion.

**“Jewish Court Cases” with Moreh Jeff Krigel**  
**(1 Credit – Elective)**

Study and examine real live court cases and how they relate to living a full Jewish life. This class will explore various aspects of the American Judicial system through the lens of specific cases. What are the links between religion and law? Are there religious aspects to the law and vice versa? We all know how much religion has shaped the law, but does it still continue to play the same role? All these questions and more will be explored in a class that dives into the legal ramifications behind separating law from theology. By the end of the course students will realize that without one, the other would be impossible.

**“Jews in the Middle Ages” with Morah Pat Snitz**  
**(1 Credit – History)**

Life in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries wasn't as bad for Jews as you might think. The clothes were strange but interesting, dancing was acceptable and fun, the food was fabulous, and some of the greatest minds in Jewish history were interpreting Torah and Talmud, writing poetry and generally leading the way into the Renaissance. Come wear the costumes, dance, cook & eat, play and learn about Medieval Jews with Pat Snitz and a variety of guest players.

**“Jewish Literacy: A Midrasha Survey” with Cantor Kari Siegel-Eglash  
(1 Credit – Philosophy-Theology)**

What is the basic knowledge necessary for a literate Jew? Jewish literacy is like the “core curriculum” of Judaism. It is designed to prepare our high school students for the full spectrum of Midrasha studies. Together we will explore the basics of Jewish history, literature, ritual, ethics, and philosophy. This is a one-semester course. This course will once again be offered during the spring semester. **THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL NINTH GRADE STUDENTS FROM BOTH CONGREGATIONS FIRST SEMESTER**

## ***HOUR 2***

**“Rashi’s Daughters” with Morah Jennifer Lorch  
(1 Credit – Jewish Literature)**

While reading Maggie Anton's *Rashi's Daughters: Jocheved* we will travel back to the town of Troyes, France during the 11th century to learn about Rashi and his family. Rashi encouraged his daughters to be knowledgeable about Jewish texts during a time when women were traditionally forbidden to do so. Through this novel, we will also learn a little bit of Torah, Talmud and history. Because the *mikvah*, Jewish ritual bath serves as an important setting within the novel, each week, a different student will have the opportunity for a personal *mikvah* experience if he or she chooses.

**“Havruta Learning” with Midrasha Student Leaders and Moreh Alex Prescott  
(1 Credit - Elective)**

Havruta learning is the old age Jewish tradition of students learning from each other. Haver derives from the Hebrew word friend. This class will utilize the method of Havruta learning as a way to develop and deepen classroom discussion. The facilitators hope to provide students with thought provoking and engaging Jewish texts. Sources from Halakhah (Jewish Law) as well as Aggadah (Jewish Stories and Teachings) will be provided to serve as stepping off points of discussion.

**“Cooking in Blue and White” with Morah Pat Snitz and Morah Edna Lapidot  
(1 Credit – Ethics)**

Learn and taste the Jewish roots of Israeli cuisine with Shlichah Edna Lapidot and Jewish Mom and cooking-maven Pat Snitz in the kosher kitchens at Congregation B’nai Emunah. Where did these tasty treats come from? How have they changed in our kitchens? Have fun in class and go home with food and recipes.

**“Liberal Judaism” with Rabbi Charles Sherman**  
**(1 Credit - Philosophy/Theology or Rabbinic’s)**

We often take for granted what we are and who we are. In this class Rabbi Sherman will help students understand better what it is to be a Reform or liberal Jew, and our obligations to our faith. **THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED OF ALL TEMPLE ISRAEL TENTH GRADERS WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION. STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12 ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS CLASS EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT CONFIRMATION STUDENTS.** *This is the first half of a two-semester course.*

**“Rosetta Stone Hebrew: Ivriya Part One” with Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman**  
**(1 Credit – Hebrew)**

Jumpstart your Hebrew studies in this supervised experience of electronic language acquisition. Rabbi Fitzerman will lead students through Module I of Rosetta Stone Hebrew, the most important tool for rapid language development now available. Students will be required to attend class on Wednesday evening and sign in for one additional hour of study each week at a time negotiated with the instructor. Ivriya Part Two is for students who have already taken Ivriya. Ivriya Part One with Rabbi Fitzerman is for High School students just entering the Hebrew program for the first time.

**“Ivriya Chadasha High School Division Part Two” with Morah Ofira Shoham**  
**(1 Credit – Hebrew)**

This class is open to Ninth through Twelfth grade students who wish to continue their Hebrew Language studies. Modern Hebrew language will be studied through reading, writing and speaking. Materials will include modern day songs and stories as well as vocabulary and grammar. For those planning a trip to Israel during their high school years the class will cover useful language for travel in Israel. Students will be evaluated for proper placement. There may be more than one section of this class based on the students’ abilities as they enter or continue on in the program. *Students are welcome to begin Ivriya at any age or grade.* Ivriya Part Two is for students who have already taken Ivriya. Ivriya Part One with Rabbi Fitzerman is for High School students just entering the Hebrew program for the first time.

**"Jewish and College Bound" with Morah Elizabeth Cohen**  
**(1 Credit: Elective)**

Have you ever thought about what Jewish life will be like for you when you finally make it to college? How will it be the same and how will it be different? What should you look for in a college and how can you best prepare for Jewish life while in college? Through a series of clips from the internet, panel discussions, personal narratives from Jewish college peers of the instructor, and special guests having a connection with Hillel, this class will explore Jewish life on campus, from the big university to the small school. In addition, a segment of the class will focus on Jewish influences and individuals within contemporary pop and college culture by comparing and contrasting the next latest and greatest. Especially tailored to the junior and

senior at Midrasha, this course will prepare you make the tough decisions in your learning journey after high school. This course is taught by a current University of Tulsa student.

**"An Empire of their Own: Jews and Hollywood" with Morah Sarah Gordon  
(1 Credit: Elective)**

In this course, we will explore how the Jews helped create Hollywood. Jews have starred in films throughout the ages and this class will focus on the great Jews in film and behind the scenes and their remarkable contribution. The film clips we will have an opportunity to watch in this class will be our text and the center of our group dialogue. Among others, some of the individual works we will dive into are classics by Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Jerry Seinfeld, and Steven Spielberg. In addition, we will use "An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood" by Neal Gabler as one of our primary sources. This is an interactive course and participation in classroom discussions is highly encouraged. Ready, set, action!

## **Special High School Information**

### ***The Trip to Israel***

Students from both congregations are invited to participate in special travel experiences to Israel, sponsored by the Conservative and Reform movements. In order to honor our students for their dedication, this trip is subsidized by both the students' congregations and by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa.

### ***Institute for Adult Jewish Studies***

The Tulsa Jewish community sponsors the Institute of Adult Jewish Studies, a program of continuing education, on Monday evenings. Students in grades eleven and twelve may further enrich their Judaic background through this program. If students are interested in a specific course or have a scheduling conflict during a particular semester, they may participate in the Institute. Full Midrasha credit will be awarded to students for successful completion. For more information or to arrange Midrasha credit, contact either Eliyahu Krigel or Jennifer Lorch.

### ***Independent Study***

Students in the Midrasha program may design their own one credit independent study course in a particular area of Jewish Studies to supplement the curriculum. Interested students may complete a project proposal to be approved by the Education Directors. Students may earn up to two credit hours of independent study during their Midrasha career. Either Rabbi, educator, or mentor chosen from our community may guide independent study projects.

## *Flow Chart*

There are many options available to Jewish students in Tulsa. The following flow chart represents a bird's eye overview of some of those engaging possibilities.

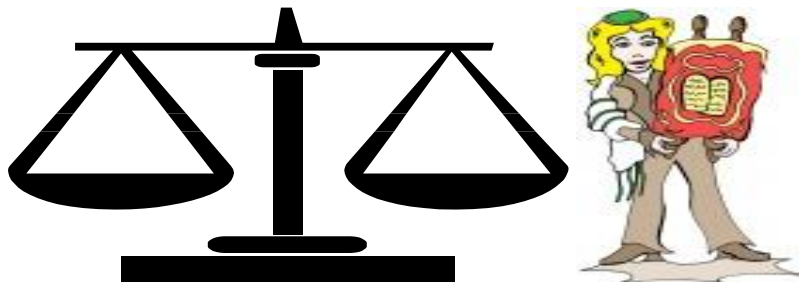
## **Additional Programming: More Information to Follow**

***The OCCJ Teen Trialogue:*** The dates for the Teen Trialogue have been set for Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, and a tentative snow day if we need to use it on March 25. The Trialogue will be from 1:00-3:00 on the above mentioned days. The OCCJ Youth Tour date is November 13, 2011. The theme this year for the OCCJ Teen Trialogue is food insecurity and our responses!

***Hazon Tulsa Ride:*** Stay tuned for more information regarding a bike ride to raise money for Hazon in the spring.

***Anytown:*** The dates for Anytown haven't been announced yet but the OCCJ plans to run Anytown sometime towards the end of June 2012. More information for follow!

***Interfaith Social Action Project:*** We haven't announced the date yet but this overnight is a program devoted to working with our hands out in the community. We're looking at August 2012 for possible dates. Stay tuned for more information.



## **Policies and Expectations**

### ***Administration***

The Midrasha program is jointly administered by Eliyahu Krigel, the Education Director at Congregation B'nai Emunah and Jennifer Lorch, the Director of Youth and Education at Temple Israel. The direction and supervision of the program is done cooperatively and you may contact either of us at any time to discuss suggestions and concerns. The phone numbers of both directors are at the front of this handbook.

### ***Attendance***

Consistent attendance at Midrasha is necessary to fully benefit from the program. When a student misses a class, please contact the teacher or a classmate to inquire about missed work and assignments. Please notify us in advance of scheduled absences and call immediately in the case

of absence due to illness or emergency. ***In order to receive credit for a Midrasha course, students need to attend at least 70% of all classes during the semester, or complete all assigned make-up work. Attendance records are maintained through the school offices.***

Students are expected to arrive on time and to remain until the end of class. Late arrivals must check-in at the office in order to ensure their attendance is recorded.

Early dismissal students must sign out in the office before leaving the campus. Failure to sign out and to report to second hour will result in a phone call home to ensure your student's safety.

### ***Attire***

It is important that Midrasha students dress appropriately for Synagogue or Temple. The way we dress affects our behavior and our attitude. Respect for the learning process, as well as pride in the Midrasha program, will greatly enhance the success of both students and teachers. Therefore, our students' dress should be neat and modest. (If you can't wear it to your secular school; it is probably not appropriate for Midrasha.)

### ***Break Time***

During the scheduled break time each Wednesday evening (8:00-8:15 p.m.) refreshments will be provided and students can socialize with their peers. **Students are required to remain in the building and are not allowed to congregate in the parking lot or go off-campus during break.**

### ***Behavior***

Mutual respect allows students and teachers greater opportunity to engage in rewarding Jewish learning experiences. Kavod (respect) for others and learning is a highly regarded Jewish value. As parents and teachers we want our students to be respectful of themselves, others and our synagogues. Attention, cooperation and respect are the foundation of a successful learning environment.

If a disciplinary issue does arise, the teacher will handle it initially. When necessary it will be brought to the attention of one of the Education Directors and parents may be contacted. Consequences of inappropriate behavior include removal from class, conference with the administrator and parents, alternative assignments, and, in severe cases, suspension.

### ***Cell Phones***

Cell phones or any personal screens belonging to students may not be used during class time.

### ***Communication with Parents***

Jewish Education is the most successful and long lasting when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the student. This should be the purpose of every communication between parents and the school. Parents are encouraged to visit with teachers to stay informed

on the student's progress. Should the need arise; a teacher may request a meeting with a parent to discuss their student. Parents, in turn, should feel free to request a meeting when they have a particular concern or question. Please note; teachers are not available for in-person or telephone consultation while classes are in session.

At the end of each semester parents will be provided with progress reports. Copies of the progress reports are kept in the offices of both educational departments.

### ***Enrollment Process***

It is important that students who participate in the educational program feel a sense of connection to their community. Therefore, all Midrasha students must be affiliated with a local Jewish congregation.

During each semester of Midrasha, new enrollment forms will be mailed to families, along with an outline of the course selections. Courses change each semester, therefore, it is essential that students and parents review the materials and return the registration via email forwarding or save and attach.

### ***Homework and Testing***

Homework will occasionally be assigned in a meaningful and realistic manner. It serves as a preparation for future class sessions. Students may be assessed from time to time to evaluate their accomplishments. Students will be notified in advance to allow time for preparation.

### ***Youth Group Activities***

We encourage our students to participate in many kinds of extra-curricular activities, most especially in the junior youth groups of Congregation B'nai Emunah and Temple Israel, as well as the community high school youth group, BBYO. These organizations provide our students with outstanding opportunities to interact with their Jewish peers in social, community service, and worship activities. All three youth groups are invited and encouraged to utilize the spaces of either congregation (with advance permission and arrangements) for meetings and programs.

**However, during the class hours of Midrasha (excluding breaks), students will be asked to refrain from gathering to discuss youth group business and preparing youth group materials unless approved before hand by the Directors of Education.**

### ***Jewish Observance***

The philosophy of the Midrasha program is to include members of the Tulsa Jewish community who observe Judaism across the spectrum of the Jewish denominations. It is our hope that teachers, students and families will come together for educational and social experiences in an atmosphere of respect for the varying traditions existing within our community. At times, observances in the school setting may differ from those practiced in individual homes, and full respect for family decisions will always be supported in our classrooms. We encourage students and their families with specific questions regarding Jewish observance in Midrasha to speak with their Rabbi or Educator. Teachers in the Midrasha program are encouraged to be sensitive to the

distinctions between Conservative and Reform observances. We believe that this respect will enhance the substantive learning of the students and allow them greater appreciation of their own congregation as well as others.

### ***Kashrut***

Snacks and meals served as a part of the Midrasha program will be purchased or prepared according to the Laws of Kashrut in order to create an atmosphere in which all students feel comfortable.

### ***Kippot***

Fundamental to Jewish worship and study is the respect we feel toward our sacred texts. These writings serve as a tangible representation of our relationship with God. We want our students to feel a sense of uniqueness and holiness when they read the words of *Torah, Tanach, Talmud, Midrash, and Siddur* or any other sacred writings. Some people believe wearing kippot when studying sacred texts enhances that experience. Midrasha students will be asked to wear kippot when studying sacred texts as a reminder of the special task they undertake. Students are invited to bring their own kippot, borrow from the Midrasha program or purchase one in the gift shops of both congregations.

### ***Brachot***

As part of the Midrasha program, students are encouraged to recite appropriate blessings during meals, study, and special activities. Families are invited to contact their Educator for copies of these blessings for reinforcement at home.

### ***School Closing Due to Inclement Weather***

In an instance of inclement weather, local radio and television stations will be informed so that notification of school closing can be broadcast. When possible, we will notify families by telephone. We also will send an email announcement the day of the inclement weather if possible.

### ***Student Pick-Up from Midrasha***

As Midrasha classes end at 9:00 p.m., please, pick up your students promptly. The Directors of Education will remain in the Midrasha facility until all students have been picked up.

### ***Visitors Policy***

Visitors to Midrasha are not encouraged as it creates a liability issue for the program. However, each Semester we will schedule one session during which our students may each bring one invited guest with them to class. Bring your friend to Midrasha day will held on October 26, 2011 and on February 8, 2012.