

Akiba Academy

2011 - 2012

A HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING
PROGRAM FOR
POST B'NEI
MITZVAH
STUDENTS



 **Congregation
Beth Israel**

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**ONCE YOU HAVE CHOSEN
YOUR TRACK AND CLASSES,
VISIT WWW.JUAKIBA.CAMP9.ORG TO REGISTER!**

WELCOME!

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Akiba Academy High School program! At the end of last year, we initiated teen focus groups to discuss the future of the Akiba Academy. These sessions were informative and helpful when it came to plan a new program for our teens. Many teens spoke about enjoying the weekly classes while others wished there was more freedom of choice. Most of the teens wanted to be involved in more community service projects and some spoke about giving back to the synagogue. All the teens enjoy the social aspect the Akiba Academy provides and would love to see more teens involved. Using all this information, we have made some significant changes to our past program which we hope will allow for more participation, flexibility and choice in learning subjects.

Allow me to highlight a few new initiatives:

- This year we will be teaming up with Temple Shalom of Fanwood and Temple Beth El Mevor Chayim of Cranford. Electives and classes will be offered through all three of the synagogues and teens are welcome to take classes at all locations.
- There will be two tracks of the Akiba Academy. One will occur weekly on Wednesday nights and the other will be more flexible, as the classes take place at different times throughout the year.
- Special Electives will be offered throughout the year – including “Issues by the Slice” with Rabbi Nudell, for participants of both tracks.

Please read through this handbook carefully and thoroughly. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Have a great time picking your classes and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Elly Bauman
Education Director




General Information

SCHEDULE: The Akiba Academy will run on a trimester system.

Trimester 1 ~ September 14 – December 14

Trimester 2 ~ December 21 – February 29

Trimester 3 ~ March 14 – May 23

PAYMENT:  Due to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, we are happy to be able offer a \$100 reduction in the price of the Akiba Academy for the 2011-2012 year. Therefore, the Akiba Academy is \$425 for CBI members and \$500 for non CBI members

CONTACT: School Office: 908-889-1830 or Email: school@cbinj.org

ABSENCED/LATENESS POLICY

Every student is important in The Akiba Academy and teachers often wait for one student. Therefore, keep in mind our **ABSENCE/LATENESS POLICY for all classes and students**.

- If you will be unable to attend the class, we ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible so we can get a message to the teacher.
- For elective classes: If you are going to be late for a class (up to ½ hour) please contact the teacher using the contact information that you receive via e-mail prior to the class. Think of the class like an appointment – the teacher and other students are probably waiting for you to start!
- For elective classes: If you are going to be more than ½ hour late for the class, please plan on signing up for another class and contact the teacher using the contact information that you receive. Most of our classes are small and based on discussions and activities – missing more than ½ hour makes it difficult for the teacher to start the class without you and it is most likely means that you are missing a significant amount of what is happening.

CBI AKIBA PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between Track 1 and Track 2? Track 1 is the well known model of the Akiba Academy. Classes are taught Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:00pm. Each trimester the topics change and the classes are taught by Rabbi Nudell and other CBI faculty. In Track 2, students choose various classes that are given at times that work for them. Students registered in Track 2 must attend all three Club Nights per trimester and fulfill an additional 7 hours of learning.
2. What are Club Nights? Club Nights are themed based social evenings. Each Club Night incorporates 3 sessions on a given theme per trimester. All the Club Night choices can be found on the website: www.juakiba.camp9.org
3. What are electives and how are they different from Club Nights? Electives are one time programs or classes and fall into the categories of Torah, Gemilut Hasadim or Avodah. They happen randomly throughout the calendar year.
4. How does my child receive credit? The Wednesday core class meets for a total of 12 hours per trimester. If your child cannot attend the Wednesday class, he/she attends the 3 club nights and 7 hours of electives per trimester. Credits are tracked via the website.
5. Can my child change what he/she takes each trimester? Yes. The Wednesday classes will change each trimester and the electives and Club Nights vary throughout the year. In addition, students may change which format they choose each trimester. For example, trimester one you can choose Track 1 but trimester two you can choose Track 2 and trimester three you can go back to Track 1.
6. How will my child know what is being offered? This handbook outlines all the classes begin offered for the entire year. Registration is via the website: www.juakiba.camp9.org
7. Is there a reward/incentive for completing the requirements? Yes. We will be taking all the students on trips. 8th and 9th will go to New York and 10th and 11th will go to Philly. 12th grade will go somewhere else – TBA. All dates will be announced in the Fall.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CLASSES?

STEP 1

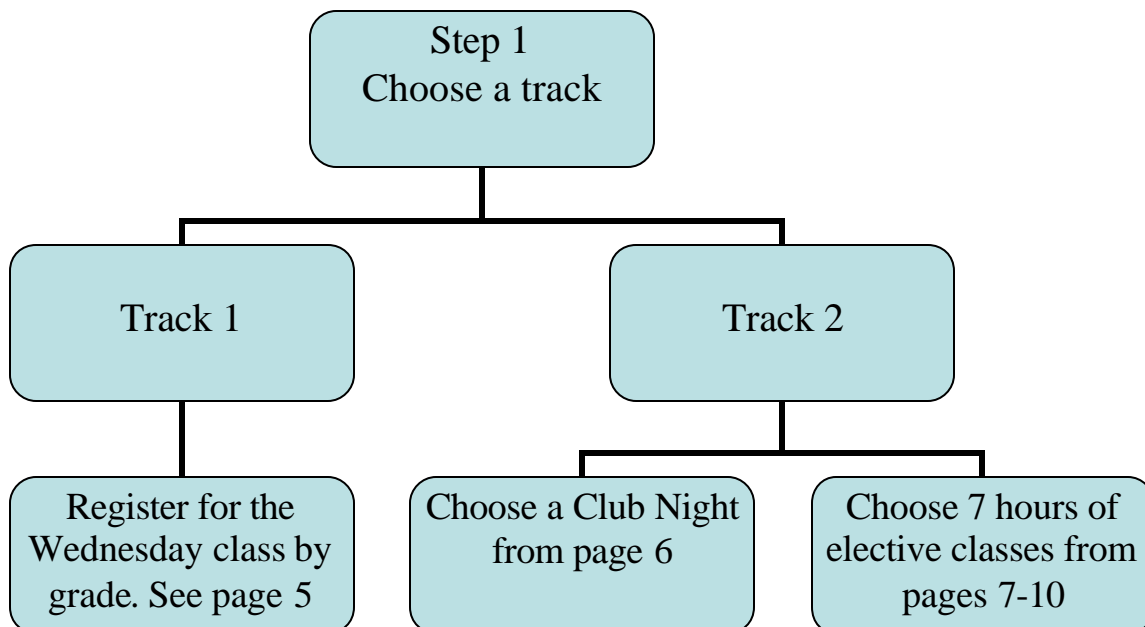
Choose your track : Before choosing classes you must decide which track you will be attending. Track 1 meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 6:45-8:00 pm and Track 2 includes the Sunday night Club Nights and 7 hours of elective classes.

STEP 2

Choose your classes: Look through the course guide and mark the courses that interest you. If you register for Track 2, please make sure you have picked a Club Night and 7 hours of electives per trimester.

STEP 3

Register on-line: You will be registering for classes on-line! Once you have looked through the booklet and chosen your classes, go to www.juakiba.camp9.org and register. You will be able to sign up for all of your classes on the site and check when ever you would like to see what you have signed up for.



Track 1

Wednesday Classes

TRIMESTER 1

8th Grade

MOOT COURT: *Instructor: Andrew Nusbaum*

Come debate timely topics the Jewish way. Work as a team to defend your position as you try and convince the judge to vote in your favor.

9th Grade

Take the MTV Challenge: *Instructor: Rabbi Ben Goldstein*

Come explore various Jewish themes through the use of TV, music video and commercial clips.

10th Grade

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM: *Instructor: Rabbi Nudell*

What is Conservative Judaism? What do we believe? How do we practice? How does Conservative Judaism compare to the other sects of Judaism?

11th and 12th grade

Evening Tune-Up: *Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod*

We'll sing our way through the services with all new melodies (you've never heard *these* before)! We'll decide which are "keepers" and which don't make the grade.

TRIMESTER 2

8th and 9th grade:

TORAH AND TUNES: *Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod*

Take a unique look at different books and characters from the Tanach and find songs from modern times, from Classic Rock to Pop, which closely match important themes or episode found inside.

10th grade:

What is God?: *Instructor Andrew Nusbaum*

How do we define God? What role does God play in our life? What does it mean to believe in God?

11th and 12th grade:

A TASTE OF TALMUD: *Instructor: Rabbi Nudell*

A first-hand look at different sections of the Talmud.

TRIMESTER 3

8th grade:

FOLKLORE: *Instructor: Rabbi Nudell*

We will read and discuss various Jewish folklore that have been passed down through the generations.

9th and 10th grade:

MYSTICISM: *Instructor: TBA*

What exactly is mysticism and how does it fit into our lives as modern Jews?

11th and 12th grade:

LIFE BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL: *Instructor: Andrew Nusbaum*

Let's discuss the world's events and how they affect us as Jews. What awaits us after high school?

Track 2 Electives

CLUB NIGHTS

These workshops meet monthly on Sunday nights from 7:00-8:45. Registering for these Club Nights equals 5 hours of study per trimester. You can take all three trimesters of the same club, choose different ones each trimester, or just take part in one Trimester! As part of track 2, you must register for the trimester Club Night!

Trimester 1: Sept. 25, Oct 16, Nov. 20

Trimester 2: Dec. 11, Jan 22, Feb. 12

Trimester 3: March 18, April 22, May 20

CLUB-1 Jewish Cooking

Instructor: *Ellen Berman*

So you're a Jewish adult... Now what? This fun and delicious class gives you an opportunity to exercise those grown up muscles by teaching you how to cook for the Jewish holidays, how to figure out if something is kosher, and how to do basic things in the kitchen which will help you do all kinds of cooking throughout the year even when it's not a holiday. If you love to cook (or want to learn!) and carry on Jewish tradition through hands-on fun, then this is the club for you!

Each trimester we will be cooking different foods—come and join the fun!

CLUB-2 Jewish Service Learning

Instructor: *Dana Brenner*

Join us as we explore how to help others and the world around us. During each of the sessions we will be learning about an issue, looking at some Jewish text, doing something to help and documenting our work in video that can be used by our religious school and congregation.

Trimester 1 focus: economic injustice in the United States

Trimester 2 focus: the environment

Trimester 3 focus: world poverty and health care

Club-3 One Minute plays

Instructor: *Alex Bernstein*

In mid-June we will be putting on a production of One Minute Plays and you are going to help write them (you can be in the plays as well if you would like, but it is not required!) In the club, we will learn about dramatic forms, how to boil all the drama and excitement of a theatrical piece down to exactly one minute, and of course, using this form as a means to express our-selves and our Jewish identity.

Trimester 1 topic: comedy

Trimester 2 topic: history

Trimester 3 topic: urgency

Track 2

Electives

Below is a list of all the elective classes being offered during each trimester. As part of Track 2, you must register for 7 hours of elective classes per trimester. If you are studying in the Wednesday classes, you may sign up for any elective that interests you.

Trimester 1

Issues by the Slice (Torah class)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell

Sunday November 6

6:30-8:30pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

What's on your mind? Come have a frank discussion with Rabbi Nudell about all things Jewish. Pizza will be served.

Become a Mitzvah Clown! (Gemimlut Hasadim)

Instructors: Joel Horowitz & Bruce Zakarin

Training: Sunday, Nov. 6 9:30-3pm (receive 4 hours of class credit)

Performing: one Sunday per month

Join with adults and teens from our community to become a Mitzvah Clown! Train to become clowns and then visit people at assisted living centers, nursing homes, hospitals, special needs events, etc. The training includes applying professional clown make-up, making balloon sculptures/animals, singing and dancing (very easy stuff), and learning interaction and conversational skills. The commitment is generally one Sunday afternoon a month starting in November and continuing through April or May. This year our training is set to take place at Congregation Beth Israel on Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 9:30 to 3:00, followed by a visit to a local assisted living center to make use of our newly learned skills, in full clown costume.

Cost: \$40-\$50 for supplies (paid directly to Mitzvah Clowns)

Modern Hebrew & Israeli Culture (Torah)

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi (Shaliach, Jewish Federation)

Wednesdays Sept 14 – Dec 14

7:00-8:00 (receive 4 hours of class credit)

Congregation Beth Israel

Trimester 1- Introduction: This year we are very excited to be offering a weekly Modern Spoken Hebrew & Israeli Culture class taught by our community Israeli Shaliach.

Teenage Israeli Life (Torah)

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi

Monday, October 24

7:00-8:30pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Fanwood Presbyterian

Come discover the similarities and differences between American teens and Israeli teens.

Attending Shabbat Services and Write-Up @ Temple Sholom (Avodah)

Instructor: Rabbi Abraham

Friday, November 4

7:45-9:45pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Come see Temple Sholom's services and then have a brief discussion with their Rabbi to ask questions and learn about how their community worships. Write about what you experienced by filling out a questionnaire ~ no credit will be given until the form is received. Service takes place at Fanwood Presbyterian.

Attending Shabbat Services and Write-Up @ CBI (Avodah)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell

Friday, October 28

7:30-9:00pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Attend services and then have a brief discussion with Rabbi Nudell and write about what you experienced. Questionnaires will be available to fill out and no credit will be given until the form is received.

Chanting Torah (Avodah)

Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod

(receive 2 hours of class credit)

Read Torah at a Shabbat service. Contact Cantor Matt to coordinate which Shabbat you would like to attend and which aliyah you would like to read.

Trimester 2

Issues by the Slice (Torah)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell and Rabbi Abraham

Sunday February 12

6:30-8:30pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

What's on your mind? Come have a frank discussion with Rabbis Nudell and Abraham about all things Jewish and learn some different perspectives. Pizza will be served.

Modern Hebrew & Israeli Culture (Torah)

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi (Shaliach, Jewish Federation)

Wednesdays Dec 21 – Feb 29

7:00-8:00 (receive 4 hours of class credit)

Congregation Beth Israel

Trimester 1– Introduction: This year we are very excited to be offering a weekly Modern Spoken Hebrew & Israeli Culture class taught by our community Israeli Shaliach.

Views of Each Other (Torah)

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi

Monday, January 23

7:00-8:30pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Fanwood Presbyterian

What are the stereotypes we have us Israelis and vice versa? Talk an in-depth look at how we view each other and what that means for world Jewry.

Chanting Torah (Avodah)

Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod

(receive 2 hours of class credit)

Read Torah at a Shabbat service. Contact Cantor Matt to coordinate which Shabbat you would like to attend and which aliyah you would like to read.

Attending Shabbat Services and Write-Up @ CBI (Avodah)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell

Friday, January 13

7:30-9:00pm (receive 2 hours of class credits)

Attend services and then have a brief discussion with Rabbi Nudell and write about what you experienced. Questionnaires will be available to fill out and no credit will be given until the form is received.

Trimester 3**Modern Hebrew & Israeli Culture (Torah_**

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi (Shaliach, Jewish Federation)

Wednesdays March 14 – May 23

7:00-8:00 (receive 4 hours of class credit)

Congregation Beth Israel

Advanced (open to those students who take either trimester 1 or 2)

High School Jew-sical (Torah)

Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod

Wednesdays April 18 – May 23

7:00-8:00 (receive 3 hours of class credit)

It's a choir for teens! We'll have fun learning music and perform them for everyone at the end of the year.

Torah Trek (Torah)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell

Sunday March 25

9:30 -11:30 am (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Take a walk through the neighborhood and see the Torah come alive. Travel with Rabbi Nudell through our neighborhood and learn about the different types of plants and vegetables related to the Torah.

I'm in the Army Now (Torah)

Instructor: Natalie Elgrabi

Monday, April 16

7:00-8:30pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Fanwood Presbyterian

What does it mean 'to serve your country'? Come have an in-depth discussion about Israeli teens serving in the army.

Chanting Torah (Avodah)

Instructor: Cantor Matt Axelrod

(receive 2 hours of class credit)

Read Torah at a Shabbat service. Contact Cantor Matt to coordinate which Shabbat you would like to attend and which aliyah you would like to read.

Attending Shabbat Services and Write-Up @ Temple Sholom (Avodah)

Instructor: Rabbi Joel Abraham

Friday, March 2

7:45-9:45pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Come see Temple Sholom's services and then have a brief discussion with their Rabbi to ask questions and learn about how their community worships. Write about what you experienced by filling out a questionnaire ~ no credit will be given until the form is received. Service takes place at Fanwood Presbyterian.

Attending Shabbat Services and Write-Up @ CBI (Avodah)

Instructor: Rabbi Nudell

Friday, April 20

7:30-9:00pm (receive 2 hours of class credit)

Attend services and then have a brief discussion with Rabbi Nudell and write about what you experienced. Questionnaires will be available to fill out and no credit will be given until the form is received.



End of Year Trips

8th and 9th GRADE TRIP TO NYC

Led by Rabbis Nudell, Abraham and Goldstein

Sunday, June 10

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Join with the Rabbis and students from all three congregations for a fun filled day exploring “Jewish NYC”.

OPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ALL OF THEIR CLASSES AND ATTENDED 80% OF THE TIME

10TH and 11TH GRADE TRIP TO PHILLY

TBA

Join the Rabbi A fun filled day exploring “Jewish Philly”.

OPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ALL OF THEIR CLASSES AND ATTENDED 80% OF THE TIME

