

BeST I

Sunday	Wednesday
Electives	Time of Our Lives/Now What?
Pirke Avot/ Stubborn and Rebellious—like me?	Humash

Wednesday

The Time of Our Lives (Fall Semester)

Explore how Jewish lifecycle events help us mark and celebrate the milestones in our lives. Learn how you can contribute to the enrichment of these celebrations. Discover the many mitzvot (commandments) and minhagim (customs) that surround these Jewish moments of transition. Teacher: Matt Kanoff

Now What? (Spring Semester)

You’ve heard probably more times than you cared to, “Now that you’ve had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, you’re a Jewish adult with all those responsibilities.” Just what are those responsibilities anyway? During this course, we’ll look at what many of the mitzvot are that you are newly responsible for—visiting the sick, keeping kosher, celebrating with a bride and groom, and returning lost and found. Teacher: Matt Kanoff

Humash

We will be studying from the *Etz Hayim Humash* in discussing the five books of Moses, how they relate to your upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah as well as your daily life. Please bring your copy from Dalet promotion! Teachers: Rabbi Lindemann and Rabbi Peltz

Sunday

Pirkei Avot (Fall Semester)

This famous section of the Mishnah records many of the ethical teachings of our tradition. Students will learn how to read this classic work and apply its lessons to their lives. Teachers: Mimi Sebek and Sara Kreisman

Stubborn and Rebellious—like me? (Spring Semester)

Sound familiar? Did you know that the book of Deuteronomy commands parents to stone a stubborn and rebellious child? It is a truly strange and perplexing text that raises all kinds of questions about how children progress into teenagers and when they become fully responsible for their own actions. Come prepared to be surprised, debate, and share your ideas for this fun course that speaks to BeST I students specifically at their age. Teachers: Mimi Sebek and Sara Kreisman

Electives (see below)

Questions? For more information about Teen Education at Temple Beth Sholom, contact Beverly Lerner, Director of Teen Education. 856-751-1824 or beverlyl@tbsonline.org.

BeST I & II Fall Semester Electives

Because God Loves Stories

Why were human beings created? According to one tradition, we were created because God love stories. A people’s values are transmitted through its stories. In this class, we will look at Jewish stories from every period of Jewish history and see how they touched the minds, souls, and hearts of our people. Teachers: Bertram Bauer and Mimi Sebek

Drama

Come have fun and express who you are through drama! We’ll get together, rehearse a variety of plays, and perform one at the end of the semester. Teacher: Susan McDermet

BeST I & II Spring Semester Electives:

Jews in Film

How close to reality is Hollywood’s image of the Jewish people? What can we learn about Jewish life in America from movies? What do we learn about how we want to live our Jewish lives from movies? How do filmmakers make their own statements about American Jewish life through their films? This course will view a variety of films made by Jews or with Jewish characters and discuss these and other fascination questions of film. Teacher: Susan McDermet

The Art of Jewish Living (Spring Semester)

Oh, is that the holiday where you shake the sticks? Or the one where you blow the shofar? Oh right! It’s the one where you light candles! Varied and sometimes unusual actions accompany our holidays and lifecycle events. This class will take a look at the art in Jewish ritual objects to see what the art can tell us about the ritual and the makers of the object itself. Teacher: Bertram Bauer and Mimi Sebek

BeST II

Sunday	Wednesday
Electives	Digesting Hebrew
Shabbat Unplugged	Deal or No Deal

Wednesday

Deal or No Deal

Every day we have to make decisions—and quickly! This class will give you a chance to slow down and look at some of those questions through a Jewish lens. How do I treat my friends? Myself? What am I looking for in someone to date? How do I negotiate conflict? How do I handle gossip? Be ready for frank conversation and a Jewish look at all these issues and more. Teacher: Bertram Bauer

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Digesting Hebrew

What brings people together more than food? The course gives our students a chance to learn Modern Hebrew—through cooking. Each week we'll cook a new dish and learn new vocabulary for the ingredients and cooking methods we're using. Teacher: Stuart Davis

Sunday

Shabbat Unplugged

With school, BeST, eleven extra-curricular activities and an eye toward college, our BeST students are incredibly busy. BeST II will spend the year studying Shabbat and evaluating how Shabbat serves as a balancing force for their busy lives. The cornerstone of this course is planning their own Shabbat retreat, which takes place on February 10-12, 2012 at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in MD, so mark your calendars for a fun and relaxing weekend! Teacher: Staci Boiskin

Electives (see above)

BeST III

Sunday	Tuesday
It Only Takes One...You!	Shoah
Sim Shalom	Electives

Tuesday

Shoah

The most tragic event in Jewish history is the Shoah, the Holocaust. What were the events that led up to Hitler's solution? Did the Jews seemingly go "like sheep to the slaughter" or was there rebellion and revolt? Have we learned the lessons of history? The highlight of this course is traveling to the D.C. Holocaust Museum on April 10th. Teacher: Marc Cohen

Electives (see below)

Sunday

It Only Takes One... You!

Judaism has an amazing mandate for us as individuals and as a community to pursue justice. But what *is* justice? What is injustice? How do we determine the steps to creating a more just world? We will both study social justice and work toward it in community organizations throughout the year.

Teacher: Bertram Bauer

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Sim Shalom

Sim Shalom is the name of the Siddur (prayer book) that Temple Beth Sholom and other Conservative synagogues use for Shabbat, holidays, and everyday.

The students will reexamine the Siddur and the prayers between its pages. As we prepare to travel to Israel in BeST IV where we will use the siddur at least daily, we want to make sure prayer is a meaningful experience for our students.

Teacher: David Zvi Epstein

BeST III & IV Fall Semester Electives

Israel Today & Tomorrow

Israel was born out of a generation's idealism and was a timely solution to being a wandering people. The people of Israel today are just as busy looking toward an even better future for the State. In this elective, we'll take a look at the way the values of the founders of the State of Israel will go forward today and into tomorrow.

Teacher: Sue McDermet

Useful Hebrew

Do you want to go to Israel and be able to ask how to get to the bathroom when you *really* need it? Want to be able to make friends at the Jaffa Institute when we visit? Then this course is for you! We'll gather each week for a crash course in Hebrew that you'll get to use on the Israel trip.

BeST III & IV Spring Semester Electives

Lost Jewish Communities and the Fight for Legitimacy

Who is Jewish and who has the right to decide? Throughout Jewish history, the worldwide Jewish community has struggled to define itself, and whenever a new group emerges, this question is always stretched to its limits. We'll look at the origins, legends and customs of several worldwide Jewish communities, from the shores of India to the mountains of Uganda, and examine their fight for acceptance by the State of Israel.

Teacher: Sue McDermet

Take Me To Your Leader (or, What If Jews Did Run the World?)

Are you a school or youth group leader? Want to be president of an organization or club? Interested in making a difference in the world and influencing other people? Eager to show colleges that you have great leadership skills? This course will help you view leadership from a Jewish perspective, utilizing biblical and rabbinic stories and teachings as guidelines for effective leadership. During the semester, we will also have a chance to meet several local leaders to learn how Judaism has informed their own approach in guiding others and accomplishing great things.

Teacher: Alex Weinberg

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BeST IV

Sunday	Tuesday
Hot Topics	Confirmation Seminar
Passport to Israel	Electives

Sunday

Hot Topics

Discover what values and issues we as individuals, we as a country and we as a Jewish community face in our time. Our values as a community, as teens, and as a country are represented in TV, in the movies, and in print. How do they affect us? We will take a close look at these images and discuss their representations and implications on our Jewish identities. Students will learn to view television critically, to compare and contrast the values expressed on television to the values of Jewish tradition and to make connections between Torah and the world around them. Teacher: Ryon Wolf

Passport to Israel

This course will take our students through their itinerary for the Israel trip. We will learn the history behind the sights and pack relevant information to make the upcoming trip a more meaningful experience. We'll even get into the kitchen and make sure our students get a taste of Israel before December. Teacher: Mimi Sebek

Tuesday

Confirmation Seminar

Led by Rabbi Lindemann and Rabbi Peltz, this class is an opportunity to learn about the philosophy of the Conservative Movement, to “ask the Rabbi,” and continue to develop personal Jewish belief systems. Teachers: Rabbi Lindemann and Rabbi Peltz

Electives (see above)