

August 15, 2011


Dear Family,

Welcome to the Family Learning Circle (FLC)—Hebrew Connection (HC) Program at the Temple Beth Shalom Religious School. This program was established in 1999 to provide an alternative to the traditional Religious School experience that would enable parents and children to learn together side-by-side while interacting with other Jewish families. Over the past eleven years the FLC-HC program has gone through a number of transformations to provide the most positive learning experience.

The Family Learning Circle and Hebrew Connection programs go hand-in-hand to provide a well-balanced education that includes immersing into the TBS community, receiving individualized Hebrew instruction, and empowering parents in their own Jewish journeys. Please read this letter and its attached documents closely so that you may understand our program offerings and requirements.

Family Learning Circle Program

The Family Learning Circle is a credit-based program that allows families to explore Judaism through a variety of ways including youth group participation, social action, family education, and adult education. FLC-HC families have a broad range of activities from which to enjoy and earn credits, and sessions are held during various times and days of the week and year. This week you should be receiving a Temple Beth Shalom Programs brochure that contains information about all of our programming. Programs that offer FLC credits

will be indicated with a  symbol. Use the brochure when filling out the attached Family Learning Circle registration sheet. **Please note that your child and/or family must attend and earn 10 credits to be eligible for FLC in future years.** You may, of course, earn an unlimited number of credits.

Hebrew Connection Program

Please see the attached Hebrew Connection Information Sheet.

Attached you will find several documents to complete registration for the FLC-HC Programs. Please review each of these carefully and **return required forms to the Education Office by Monday, August 29th**. Included in this packet are:

- **Hebrew Connection Information Sheet**
- **Hebrew Connection Tutor Request Form**
- **FLC Credit Registration Sheet:** to review information on all youth group, adult education, family education, and social action courses please see the Temple Beth Shalom program brochure.
- **Family Education Course Registration Sheet/Checklist:** please be mindful of your personal calendars before registering for your classes. While we will try our best to accommodate everyone's choices, class placement will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions about the Family Learning Circle—Hebrew Connection Program please feel free to contact me at aakiva@tbsoc.com or by phone at 714-628-4620. I am looking forward to an exciting year together!

L'Shalom,

April Akiva

April Akiva, MAJE
Director of Congregational Learning



Hebrew Connection Information Sheet



WELCOME TO THE HEBREW CONNECTION PROGRAM

The Hebrew Connection program provides your child with the unique opportunity to be privately tutored in Hebrew (a total of 25 sessions). This allows students to learn at their own paces and to receive personalized attention. The Hebrew Connection goes hand-in-hand with the Family Learning Circle. Family Learning Circle has several elements that are crucial to its goal of immersing the whole family in temple life. **To maintain your eligibility for the Hebrew Connection program you must earn 10 credits worth of family, adult education, and social activities.** The Education Office sends out a yearly calendar at the beginning of the school year and reminders will be in the school e-newsletter.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Whether your student is tutored at home or at the Temple, there are several steps you can take to give your child the best possible learning environment. It is important that the tutor and student meet in a quiet, clean environment. All workbooks, folders, assignments and writing implements should be out and ready when the tutor arrives. Students learn best when there is consistency in their environment, so try to have the tutoring sessions in the same place each week. Many students prefer to have privacy during their sessions so they can fully concentrate on learning. However, you are encouraged to check in frequently with your tutor about your child's progress. If your child is being tutored in your home, an adult, other than the tutor, must be present in the house at all times.

HOMEWORK

The most important elements of learning to read Hebrew are repetition and practice. You should expect your tutor to assign your child(ren) worksheets or reading practice between sessions. Students may also be assigned to practice on the computer using a program that will be provided to you. Tutors are able to track student progress and participation in the CD activities online. Because students and tutors only meet once a week, it is imperative to your child(ren)'s success that he or she completes all homework assignments. It is your responsibility as a parent to make sure that the student schedules regular practice times during the week.

PROGRESS

To make your child(ren)'s experience in the Hebrew Connection as successful as possible, it is important that you share with your tutor any information about your child(ren)'s learning needs, preferences or past tutoring experiences that may help him/her to teach your child(ren). Your tutor will give you regular updates throughout the year to keep you aware of your child(ren)'s progress. During the final tutoring session, your tutor will meet with you about your child(ren)'s progress throughout the year, current standing and suggestions for future learning needs. An end-year Progress Report will be sent to the parent(s) and will also be copied to the student's file at TBS.

RESCHEDULING SESSIONS

Try to keep a regular schedule for tutoring sessions. When students miss sessions they miss opportunities to reinforce their learning. When a student must reschedule a session you can minimize the effect by encouraging them to do extra drills and practice exercises.

Because of the unique nature of the Hebrew Connection program, flexibility and patience is of the utmost importance. Emergencies happen, but you must give your tutor 24 hours notice before canceling a session. If you cancel a session with less than 24 hours notice or do not show up to a session, the session is lost and the tutor is under no obligation to make up the session. Tutors will, of course, extend the same courtesy of 24 hours prior notice to their families. If your tutor misses a session without prior notice please call the Temple Beth Shalom Education Office at 714-628-4620.

PROMPTNESS

We know that both our tutors and families lead very busy lives. Many of our tutors have sessions scheduled back to back. Your tutor may not be able to stay after or make up missed time if your child is late or not ready to begin when the tutor arrives. While your tutor will make every effort to be on time to your session, if they are late, they will make up the missed time either at the end of that session or at another time that is convenient for you.

A FINAL WORD

Learning Hebrew can be challenging for children. It is important that you offer them all the support and encouragement you can, and please remember to sign the time sheets so that we can keep an accurate count of your child(ren)'s sessions. Your interest and positive attitude affect your child. If you have any questions feel free to call the Education Office or meet with us face to face. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Temple Beth Sholom
Hebrew Connection Tutor Request
2011-2012

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We are excited that you will be participating in the Hebrew Connection program this year! In order to match your child(ren) with a tutor, we will need the following information from you.

Please complete & return this form to the Education Office by Monday, August 29, 2011

Student(s)' Name(s): _____

Preferred tutor name: _____

- If you do not have a preferred tutor, one will be assigned.
- Every effort will be made to place your child with your preferred tutor; however, tutoring appointments must be arranged based on the scheduled availability of both the tutor and the family.

Please put an "X" next to all of the days you are available and indicate the times your student(s) will be available.

Monday Times: _____

Tuesday Times: _____

Wednesday Times: _____

Thursday Times: _____

Friday Times: _____

Please note: There are no Sunday appointments available.

For students being tutored at home:

In order to help create appropriate tutoring clusters for our tutors, it would be helpful to know of any TBS families who live in your area and might also be participating in the Hebrew Connection Program. Please list those family names: _____

Temple Beth Sholom
FLC Course Registration
2011-2012

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- **Please refer to the TBS Program brochure for class descriptions, dates, and times.** 10 credits are required, but you may sign up for unlimited classes! Some extra fees may apply. Additional classes may be added as the year progresses.

Name of Student(s) and Parents: _____

Adult Education Offerings

- _____ **Selichot Service and Program**(1 credit)
- _____ **Welcoming the Matriarchs: Sukkot** (1 credit)
- _____ **Agreeing to Disagree.** (1 credit)
- _____ **High Holidays 101** (1 credits)
- _____ **High Holiday Music Revealed** (1 credit)
- _____ **Jewish Continuity Today** (1 credits)
- _____ **History of Cantillation** (1 credit)
- _____ **What Should We Think About Israel** (1 credit)
- _____ **Introduction to Kabbalah** (1 credit)
- _____ **Tour of Jewish Los Angeles** (2 credits)
- _____ **Mezuzah Making** (1 credit)
- _____ **The Jews and Musical Theatre** (2 credits)
- _____ **Comparative Judaism** (2 credit)
- _____ **The Shofar in History and Scripture** (1 credit)
- _____ **Advanced Conversational Hebrew** (10 credits)
- _____ **Adult B'nei Mitzvah** (15 credits)
- _____ **Intro to Kabbalah** (Dec. 13) 1 credit
- _____ **Beit Teshuvah** (1 credit)
- _____ **The Mystery of Mikvah** (1 credit)
- _____ **Book Review: Blessing of B Minus** (1 credit)

Retreat Offerings

- _____ **Congregational Retreat** (2 credits)
Separate registration and fees required
- _____ **3rd-8th Grade BJE Shabbaton** (2 credits)
Separate registration and fees required

Family Education Offerings

- _____ **Walking Together** (3 credits)
Maximum of 5 families
- _____ **The Havdallah Chavurah** (2 credits)
- _____ **Mitzvah Corps** (3 credits)
Maximum of 8 families
- _____ **Let's Celebrate** (2 credits)
- _____ **Shabbat Hike, Nov. 19** (1 credit)
- _____ **Shabbat Hike, May 5** (1 credit)

Youth Group offerings (1 credit each)

Sign-ups available prior to each event via fliers/emails

Social Action

FLC credits (1 per Sunday) are awarded for participation in the Mitzvah Meals program at the temple. Each month Mitzvah Meals provides us with a list of participating families. Information and sign-ups are separate at <http://www.tbsoc.com/community/adult-programs/mitzvah-meals/>

Chavurah

1 FLC Credit can be earned by participating in a Chavurah. Families will be expected to fill out the Chavurah sheet at the end of the school year.

Family Education Registration/Hebrew Connection Checklist

Important Reminder:

- **As you register for your classes, please be aware of all dates, times and locations to ensure your availability to participate fully. The FLC program requires a minimum of 10 total credits in order to eligible for this program in future years.**

___ I have read the Opening Letter and Hebrew Connection Information Sheet.

___ I have chosen Adult Education, Family Education, etc. programs and classes

___ I have completed and attached the Hebrew Connection Tutor Request Form.

Print Name

Signature

Please return this completed & signed form to the Education Office by Monday, August 29, 2011.