



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 pace 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 teaching the whole family. This program only works when you participate in all activities – Sunday morning classes, adult education classes, family activities, pizza and Hebrew game fun, and tutoring. You are expected to attend all programs; however, to maintain your eligibility for the Hebrew Connection program you must attend at least 75% of each program. The Education Office sends out a yearly calendar at the beginning of the school year and reminders will be in the school e-newsletter.

PIZZA AND HEBREW GAME FUN

One key element of the Hebrew Connection program is Pizza and Game Fun Time, which is held 3 times throughout the year. These programs take place directly after Sunday school and last one hour (pick up at 1:00 p.m). These programs expand Hebrew skills by giving students the opportunity to use Hebrew in interaction with other students. Pizza and Game Fun Times are also social in nature and allow students to get to know other participants in the program who may not be in their Sunday class, and finally, they are FUN! All Hebrew Connection students are expected to attend these afternoons. Any student whose regularly scheduled tutoring session conflicts with these events is expected to reschedule with his/her tutor. Consistent with our Religious School policy, Hebrew Connection students must attend 75% of all Pizza and Game Fun Times.

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. 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 to the tutor and are unable to contact or reschedule with the tutor, 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 Religious School
2008-2009
Family Learning Circle Activity Tracks
Family Learning Circle Adult Education Tracks
REGISTRATION/CHECKLIST

FLC Family Activity Tracks

- Each family must register for one track which consists of four to five events.

FLC Adult Education Tracks

- At least one parent (but both are welcome!) must register for at least five adult learning sessions. You can either register for two 3 session classes or one 10-12 session class.

Hebrew Connection

- Please read the Hebrew Connection Information Sheet carefully.
- Please fill out the Hebrew Connection Tutor Preference Form and return it to the Education Office no later than August 22, 2008.

Important Reminder:

- **As you register for your Tracks, please be aware of all dates, times and locations to ensure your availability to participate fully. The FLC program requires a minimum of 75% attendance in both Adult Education and Family Activity Tracks in order to eligible for this program in future years.**

FLC FAMILY ACTIVITY TRACKS			
Adult(s) Name:		Child 1-Name	Child 2-Name
Circle your 1st and 2nd choices			
1 2	Family Table (formerly Shabbat Club)		
1 2	Holiday		
1 2	Mitzvah Corps		
1 2	Synaplex		

FLC ADULT EDUCATION TRACKS			
Adult(s) Name:			
Circle your class choice(s)			
1 2	God after the Holocaust	1 2	How to Live Jewishly
1 2	The Soul, the Afterlife and the Messiah	1 2	Tough Issues in Jewish Texts
1 2	The Reform Movement & Israel	1 2	Adult B'nei Mitzvah (Year 2)
1 2	Jewish Life in Film & Fiction	1 2	Beginning Conversational Hebrew

I have read the Parent Manual and Hebrew Connection Information Sheet.

I have chosen an FLC Family Activity Track.

I have chosen an FLC Adult Education Course.

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

TBS has my permission to take photographs/videos and/or provide information pertaining to my son/daughter to be used for publicity purposes in various media, including school fliers, the weekly e-newsletter, TBS website, Kol Sholom, and community publications. I realize that no commercial use will be made of the photographs or videos.

Print Name

Signature

Please return this completed & signed form to the Education Office by Friday, August 22, 2008.

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School 2008- 2009 Family Learning Circle Activity Tracks

Mitzvah Corps Track

Being a part of Mitzvah Corps allows families the opportunity to learn through action. We will learn about Jewish values and mitzvot as we together engage in serving our community. Some of our mitzvah activities may include: beach clean up, caring for animals, and more. This learning track is sure to provide a fun educational experience through action for the entire family.

Time: Sundays, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Meet in the Activity Center

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Sunday, October 26, 2008

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Sunday, April 5, 2009** (TBS Mitzvah Day, special time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m)

Note: Please bring your own lunch. Most weeks we will meet for lunch and learning in the Activity Center before we leave TBS for an offsite location.

Family Table Track

The Family Table (formerly Shabbat Club) allows participants time to relax, participate in Jewish learning, sing songs, spend time with our friends, experience services, and eat a yummy meal together. At each Family Table gathering, your family will join together in dinner and learning and then join the larger TBS community for services. Being involved in the Family Table enables the entire family to participate in these exhilarating activities together. If you are looking for ways to enhance your TBS Shabbat and holiday experiences, this is the track for you!

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: TBS Social Hall & Sanctuary

Cost: Each dinner will be \$10.00 per adult, \$5 per child

Monday, October 20, 2008** (*Simchat Torah*, dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the library)

Friday, November 14, 2008

Friday, December 12, 2008

Friday, February 13, 2009

Friday, March 13, 2009

Note: Reservations and payment are required prior to each event.

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School

2008- 2009 Family Learning Circle Activity Tracks

Holiday Track

In the Holiday Track, we will journey through the Jewish calendar. Together, your family will discover new ways to celebrate Jewish holidays at home as a family. In this track, we will use of a variety of media: art, singing, cooking, discussion, and more. If your family is seeking new ways to enhance your Jewish home life, this is the track for you!

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 (materials fee due at the first class)

Location: TBS Social Hall

Sunday, November 23, 2008
Sunday, January 11, 2009
Sunday, February 22, 2009
Sunday, March 22, 2009
Sunday, April 19, 2009

Note: Please bring your own lunch. Most weeks we will eat lunch together before we begin our activity.

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Synaplex

The Synaplex learning track provides a unique way for your entire family to enjoy engaging Jewish activities both together (as a whole family) and individually (parents and students in separate groups). In this track, you will have a chance to spend time with the larger TBS community. Some highlights of the year will be a new Selichot program, a rocking Simchat Torah dinner and celebration, Shabbat evening and morning celebrations, and Chanukah festivities.

Cost: Registration fees vary for each program

Saturday Evening, September 20, 2008 (Selichot and Changing of the Mantles)
Monday Evening, October 20, 2008 (*Simchat Torah*)
Sunday Evening, December 21, 2008 (Chanukah Program)
Friday Evening, February 20, 2009
Saturday Morning, April 25, 2009

Note: Before each Synaplex, your family will be sent a registration form that will indicate program details and prices. You must register for each Synaplex program individually.

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School

2008- 2009 Adult Learning Tracks

God after the Holocaust **Instructor: April Akiva, MAJE**

In his 1966 book, *After Auschwitz*, Jewish theologian Richard Rubenstein spoke of the “death of God.” Rubenstein was just one of scores of Jewish theologians who, in the years following the devastation of European Jewry, sought to make sense of God and life. In this course, we will explore different theologians and their understandings of God after the Holocaust. This is a course for anyone curious about exploring God and challenging their own beliefs in the most contemporary of contexts.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Library

Sunday, September 14
Sunday, September 21
Sunday, October 5

The Soul, the Afterlife, and the Messiah **Instructor: Student Rabbi Julia Weisz, TBS Education Intern**

We do not find many mentions of the soul, the afterlife, or the messiah in the Torah. However, rabbinical (post-biblical) texts, as well as contemporary Jewish responses, offer a variety of unique Jewish perspectives on these topics. In this class, we will explore foundational questions surrounding these topics, such as: What do you believe? What does our tradition say? How do your experiences fit in with Jewish perspectives? Using both traditional texts and our own theologies as a backdrop, we will explore the soul, the afterlife, and the messiah together, finding spiritual meaning in their complexities.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Library

Sunday, October 19
Sunday, October 26
Sunday, November 2

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School

2008- 2009 Adult Learning Tracks

The Reform Movement and Israel **Instructor: Rabbi Heidi Cohen**

We know that the land of Israel is sacred to the Jewish people. But what does the land mean to us as Reform Jews? Each individual has a different perspective on his/her relationship with Israel. Join Rabbi Heidi Cohen as we examine our relationship to Israel today and historically, both as individuals and as Reform Jews. We will explore such topics as Home vs. Homeland, "Jewish" as a Majority Culture, and the meaning of memory. This is a great class for anyone who has been to Israel and anyone who hopes to visit Israel in the future. This class is especially recommended for anyone participating in the TBS congregational trip to Israel this winter.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Library

Sunday, November 16
Sunday, November 23
Sunday, December 7

Jewish Life in Film & Fiction **Instructor: Daniela Lowenthal**

In this class, we will examine literary excerpts and movie clips of different perspectives of the American Jewish experience. We will move chronologically and compare trends in literature and movies by looking at changes of the Jewish self-image over time. First, we will look at patterns of assimilation and anti-Semitism, as well as their inherent stereotypes. From there, we will proceed to explore the increased tolerance of ethnic and religious particularism in the late 20th century/early 21st century. Finally, we will explore Jewish identity in American culture today.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Library

Sunday, January 4
Sunday, January 11
Sunday, January 25

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School

2008- 2009 Adult Learning Tracks

How to Live Jewishly **Instructor: Rabbi Heidi Cohen**

We are all aware of the power of the circle of life. Yet, how do we, as Jews, mark precious moments in our lives? How can we experience times of transition through our traditions, practices and beliefs? In this course, we will examine life cycle moments, as well as the Jewish traditions that accompany them. From death to birth and through each passing year, we will immerse ourselves in our Jewish life cycle.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Board Room

Sunday, January 25
Sunday, February 1
Sunday, February 8

Tough Issues in Jewish Texts **Instructor: Student Rabbi Julia Weisz, TBS Education Intern**

We may think that the subjects defining our current political atmosphere are new, but our ancient rabbis began debating the Jewish perspective on many of today's controversial issues generations ago. Are our discussions today truly the same as our rabbis' debates hundreds of years ago? Or, has the world changed so drastically that our fundamental conversations have changed, as well? Together, in this course, we will explore both rabbinic discussions and our own perspectives on the tough issues we face as modern Americans and Jews.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Library

Sunday, February 22
Sunday, March 15
Sunday, March 22

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School

2008- 2009 Adult Learning Tracks

Adult B'nei Mitzvah (Year 2) **Instructor: Rabbi Jocee Hudson**

Note: This class is only open to learners who participated in last year's Adult B'nei Mitzvah Year 1.

Learners in the Temple Beth Sholom Adult B'nei Mitzvah course have made a two-year commitment to learning. In the first year, we learned to read Hebrew and, in this second year, we will work on learning Hebrew prayers and Torah reading. Together, we will continue our exploration of foundational Jewish texts and ideas, Jewish history and liturgy, and Jewish life and living. The Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class will celebrate their B'nei Mitzvah ceremony on Shabbat morning, June 6, 2009.

Sundays 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. Mondays 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 19 (Boardroom)
Monday, November 3 (Library)
Sunday, November 23 (Boardroom)
Monday, December 1 (Library)
Sunday, January 11 (Boardroom)
Sunday, February 1 (Library)
Monday February 9 (Library)
Monday, March 2 (Library)
Sunday, March 15 (Boardroom)
Monday, March 30 (Library)
Monday, April 13 (Library)
Monday, May 4 (Library)

Beginning Conversational Hebrew **Instructor: Sima Nachshon**

If you have always wanted to learn Hebrew, this is the class for you! This class will be modeled closely after the Ulpan program that is used by new Russian and Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. The course instructor, Sima Nachshon, successfully taught this curriculum for eight years in Israel. The course will begin with an overview of the aleph-bet, the Hebrew alphabet. The class will then move to the basics of modern conversational Hebrew, as it is spoken in Israel. Together, we will learn vocabulary and the present verb tense, as well as how to construct simple sentences. This class is especially recommended for anyone participating in the TBS congregational trip to Israel this winter. (The class meets at the same time as TBS Teen Night 7th-10th grade classes)

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Classroom 5

Tuesday, September 16
Tuesday, September 23
Tuesday, October 7
Tuesday, October 28
Tuesday, November 4
Tuesday, November 18
Tuesday, November 25
Tuesday, December 2
Tuesday, December 9
Tuesday, December 16