

Dear Hebrew High Students and Parents,

I want to extend a warm welcome to all our new or returning students. Hebrew High School affirms the fact that anything you can do in the world, you can do in a Jewish way. Our goal is to have an interesting and engaging program of Jewish learning and to include social time to meet with your friends and continue building your Jewish community. We strive to find a balance between fun and focus, between experiential and book learning. The greater the number of students that attend Hebrew High, the greater the variety of classes we can offer, so get your Jewish friends, Temple Beth El members or not, to join you at Hebrew High! Below you will find everything you need to know about Hebrew High. Of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Blessings,

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias

Rabbi Educator, Temple Beth El

## **Goals for Hebrew High School**

### **CREATING AN ADULT JEWISH LIFE**

- Understand and appreciate the diversity of Jewish religious practice (i.e. Reform, Renewal, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Hassidic, Conservative, etc.)
- Develop a set of guidelines to live an adult Jewish life (i.e. dating, sex, marriage, parenting, business ethics, and death);
- Create a personal Jewish religious practice:
- Encourage the continued use of Hebrew as a tool of Jewish learning:
- Learn the tools to create a joyful Jewish life (i.e. Shabbat cooking and song, celebrating Holidays, etc.
- Foster Jewish Self-Expression through Jewish art, drama, and movement

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY**

- Develop a lasting bond with Jewish contemporaries,
- Build appreciation for responsibility to our local Jewish community and the greater Jewish world,
- Deepen the commitment to the state of Israel,
- Continue a dedication to tzedaka (righteous giving) and tikkun olam (improving and enhancing the world).

### **WORKING TOWARD CONFIRMATION**

- Assimilate accumulated learning and apply it in creating the Friday night confirmation service.

## General Information

Each school year is divided into three quarters. For the year 2009-2010 the quarters are:

Fall                    September 30 – December 16

Winter                January 13 – March 3

Spring                March 10 – May 12

Confirmation will be on Friday evening, May 21, 2010.

Hebrew High runs from 7:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m. each Wednesday night. The evening is divided into class periods, Tefillah (prayer in the Sanctuary), and break times. The first set of classes meets during the first 45 minutes, from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. Tefillah is from 7:45 to 8:00 p.m. From 8:00 to 8:15 p.m. there is a break for noshing and schmoozing. During the final 45-minute period from 8:15 to 9:00 p.m., a second set of classes meets.

Students will choose two courses to take in each of the three quarters, usually one Core Course and one Elective. If you are a returning student, check your transcript before choosing your classes to make sure you are progressing toward Confirmation.

## Fall Course Offerings

### Core Courses

#### **Love, Sex and Marriage, Jewish Views with Rabbi Rick, 1<sup>st</sup> hour**

Covers the following topics: dating, marriage and family life, premarital sex, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, partner selection and intermarriage.

#### **Torah Talk with Rabbi Paula, 1<sup>st</sup> hour**

A dynamic discussion the weekly torah portion and its commentary. What are the layers of meaning in the parasha? What are the issues it presents?

### Electives

#### **Jewish Cooking with Jennifer Vered 1<sup>st</sup> hour**

“Wherever you go, there’s always someone Jewish...” ...and wherever Jews are, they are always cooking and eating! Tour the world with your taste buds- cooking dishes you may know and love and some you have never heard of. Learn a little history behind each dish and take home your recipes. Classes limited to 8 students.

#### **Conversational Hebrew with Jennifer Vered, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour**

Ma Nishma? Do you know what this means? Would you like to learn some basic Hebrew conversational skills? In this case, we will learn some key phrases and expressions that are used in Israel. Participants will have a chance to converse in Modern Hebrew, using

some vocabulary learned in Hebrew School and achieving a higher degree of comfort with the Hebrew language.

**Rhythms of Life Drumming Class, 2nd hour** Internationally acclaimed percussionist Dror Sinai will teach about drums and how to play. The class includes time for discussion about personal, social, cultural, environmental and spiritual ideas... the "rhythms of Life". Dror will share his experience growing up in Israel as a mizrahi jew (Yemen, Turkey/Syria, Israel), with stories, songs, dances, foods and more.

### **Finding the Lost 10 Tribes, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour**

This class will explore Jewish communities around the world including groups in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Egypt. We will explore the cultures and customs of these communities as well as how the creation of the State of Israel has affected them. Some of the topics included will be how these communities relate to World Jewry and to their non-Jewish neighbors, and the history and legends of how these Jewish groups came to find themselves in these far-away lands. Taught by Aliya Davis

## **Experiential Learning / Special Programs**

- Attend a NFTY conclave or convention
- Live theater production with a Jewish theme
- Visit a Jewish museum
- Attend TBE scholar-in-residence program
- Participate in TBE Mitzvah Day
- Attend a Camp Swig/ Camp Newman weekend
- Attend a Jewish/Hillel event on the UCSC campus
- Attend Shabbat services at a Conservative, Renewal, Reconstructionist or Orthodox minyan
- Attend an Adult Education class/lecture/ workshop
- Attend another South Bay Area Hebrew High Program
- Attend a Youth Group event with a religious or educational theme.

## **TBE Hebrew High Social Action Projects**

- Assist in conducting High Holiday Children's Services
- Prepare food for the Mazon Project
- Participate in TBE Mitzvah Day
- Assist in a Sunday School class
- Complete a pre-approved community project i.e. beach clean up, Special Olympics, graffiti removal, charity walk-a-thon, etc.
- Participate in Youth Group fundraising activities (Purim Carnival, Chanukah Fair, car washes, etc.)
- Attend the Youth Group Board meetings as a board member
- Write a letter to congressional representatives about your issue that effects the lives of others