

You only *thought*
you knew the
Ohev Shalom
Hebrew High
School.

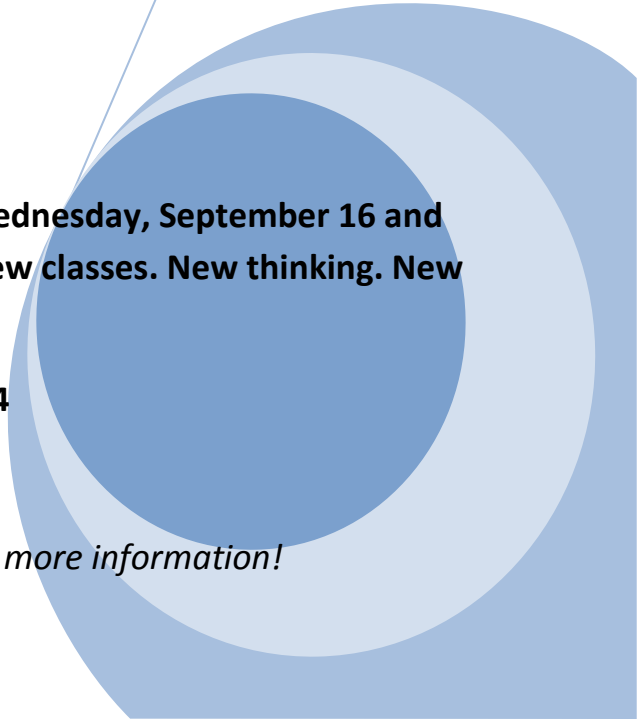
**Take a look at us
NOW!**

The New “Essential” Ohev Shalom Hebrew High School

Come check it out for two weeks with no obligation on Wednesday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. New classes. New thinking. New cool.

Ohev Shalom, 944 Second Street Pike, Richboro, PA 18954

Call 215-322-9597 to register for the two week trial and for more information!



The New *Essential* Ohev Shalom Hebrew High School

5770 ~ 2009-2010

New classes. New thinking. New cool.

Welcome to the New *Essential* Ohev Shalom Hebrew High School!

You'll notice some big changes in this year's high school program. In fact, we've re-thought and re-created almost the entire thing! We began with the question: "If you had three more years to educate Jewish students after they become b'nai mitzvah, what are the essential things you'd like them to learn?" Through asking Conservative Jewish educators, questioning our own students, and examining our own experience with our high school students we came up with these "essentials:"

Holocaust and Israel: It is *essential* that our students know about and relate to the tragedy of the Holocaust and the miracle that is the State of Israel. The Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel are arguably the two most important defining moments for contemporary Judaism. To understand where we are today in the 21st century, students must understand these events from the 20th century. To be able to speak intelligently about these modern events, which are referred to over and over again in the media, in conversations at school, and throughout society, students need to learn the facts and begin to form their own opinions about them.



The great personalities of Jewish history: One can hardly be considered a literate Jew without having a basic knowledge of the great men and women who have contributed to the evolution of Judaism through the millennia and to the creation of America and Israel. Names like Rashi, Maimonides, Touro, Schechter, Heschel and Kaplan are all too unfamiliar to most American Jewish adults, but the contributions of their namesakes are immense. It is *essential* that our students know something about the giants that came before them, the circumstances in which these Jews and their contemporaries lived and worked, and the values that guided them.



G-d: Does a Jew have to believe in G-d? What is "G-d?" How do we relate to G-d? How does G-d relate to us? These are just some of the questions that have occupied the Jewish imagination since the time of Abraham. To be a member of the People of Israel means literally "to wrestle with G-d." It is *essential* that we send our students out into the world not only with permission to wrestle with G-d, but with some guidance as to how to wrestle with G-d. This permission and this guidance will allow our students to think not only about their tradition but about the world around them in ever more sophisticated ways.

Hebrew: While Hebrew is the primary language of prayer for all Jews, Hebrew is not only for prayer. The Hebrew language has been one of those sustaining features of the Jewish people throughout its history, and it has been revived as the language of literature, law and life with the creation of the State of Israel. One of the best ways to ensure that our students develop a relationship with the state and people of Israel is to instill in our students an appreciation for, if not love of, the language that Israelis write in, speak in, think in and argue in every day. To really feel connected with Israel, a basic knowledge of modern Hebrew is *essential*.



Now that you know the essentials, here's what our new program looks like!

Core Courses

8th Grade

Confronting the Shoah (1st marking period) and
Israel Today: Realizing the Dream (2nd marking period)

Instructor, Iris Spector



Utilizing the Etgar approach that we use in the 6th and 7th grades, students during the first marking period will explore how the Holocaust affects them personally and influences how they understand their place in the world. You can read about this part of the curriculum online at

http://www.uscj.org/images/2006_proj_etgar_8th_grade.pdf.

In the second semester, the focus will switch to "Israel: The Dream Realized," in which the students will look at Israel through a microscope. They will struggle with the complexities of Israeli society and politics and draw their own conclusions. Last year they studied Zionism and the dream of Israel. This year they will look at what became of that dream.

9th Grade

Jewish Giants: The People, Places and Purposes that Make Up Our Story

Instructor, Brad Gellman



Through a series of engaging lessons utilizing reading, discussion and activities, 9th graders will learn about: the biographies of a number of significant, influential Jews throughout history; the historical period that shaped who they were; and the values and ethics they stood for. Always focusing on “the big idea” represented by these giants, students will study primary sources in English and ask themselves, “What would I have done in that situation? Are their values *my* values?”

10th Grade

The Joy of (G-d) Wrestling

Instructor, Deborah Rubenstein



Did you ever ask yourself any of these questions? Is there a G-d? Who created G-d? If there is one G-d, why are there so many religions? Do we have free will? Does prayer work? Are Jews the “Chosen People?” Is the Bible true? Does G-d speak to people? Does G-d make miracles? How can a good G-d let bad things happen? Does G-d care about my behavior? Where do people go when they die? How do I get close to G-d?

These are the questions Jews have been asking for thousands of years. Wouldn't it be great to take one course in the 10th grade and get all the answers? Well, that's not going to happen in this course. Instead, you will read and discuss some of the best writing on these questions by young Jews today and be invited to agree, disagree, challenge and debate the writers and your classmates. You might not come out with any answers, but you'll explore the options and discover the joy of wrestling with G-d.

Hebrew

Required of 8th and 9th grades for both marking periods. Optional for 10th graders.

Sicha -- Conversational Hebrew (1st marking period)

Instructor, Iris Spector



OHEV SHALOM IS ABOUT TO SET THE STANDARD FOR CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW INSTRUCTION AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL WITH THE FIRST-EVER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A CONGREGATIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AND LEARNHEBREWPOD.COM, AN EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE ONLINE RESOURCE FOR THE STUDY OF HEBREW.

In this two-year sequence, students will learn vocabulary and grammar to carry on basic conversations of daily activities and to write simple essays. Topics will include personal introductions, cooking, sports, school, home life and more. Through LearnHebrewPod.com students will be able to reinforce what they're learning in the classroom by downloading lessons onto their iPods and phones and engaging online in interactive lessons. By the time students get to Israel with USY or another trip, they will be able to have simple conversations with Israelis and impress all their friends!

Ha-chadashot – The News (2nd marking period)

Instructor, Iris Spector

In this course, students will learn to read an easy Hebrew newspaper and develop a vocabulary of words commonly found in the news in Israel. Students will become aware of current events in Israel while further developing their comfort with Hebrew.

Electives

Each course will be offered in both marking periods, covering different material from one marking period to the next. Students will have the option of continuing in their current elective or switching.

The Jewish Lens: Exploring Jewish Values and Community through Photography

Instructor, Brad Gellman

Using the innovative curriculum developed by The Jewish Lens (www.jewishlens.org), professional photographer Brad Gellman will teach students how to examine photographs for Jewish meaning and work with the class to develop its own photographic exhibit of Jewish values and community to display at Ohev after each marking period.



How do I Decide? A Jewish Approach to What's Right and What's Wrong

Instructor, Debby Rubenstein



Life rarely presents us with situations that are black and white. When faced with difficult decisions, we have to deal with a whole lot of complexity. Judaism can be one source of guidance for how to deal with issues of Life and Death, Family, Sexuality, Community, and Self-Identity. Debby Rubenstein, a professional social worker, will use Jewish writings and contemporary thinking to guide students through the rough terrain of ethical decision-making.

Me and Moses Hanging Out

Instructor, Aaron Greengard

Do you sit in services once in a while, listen to the Torah being read and find that it's just a bunch of Hebrew that doesn't feel at all meaningful to you? Maybe you avoid services altogether because the tradition that began with Moses is simply irrelevant to your life. Well, you and Moses have a lot in common. You're both trying to figure out how and why this thing called "Torah" matters. Using original sources with translation, you will discover within each weekly reading how much the Torah has to teach you about just about every experience you'll have in life.



Extra Stuff!



Shabbat Retreat at Diamond Ridge Conference Center, January 8 and 9

Dress warmly and be prepared for an amazingly fun experience at this awesome nearby camp and retreat center. We'll be staying overnight in the center's dormitory with separate accommodations for girls and boys. We'll play games, chill on Shabbat, and do some learning over hot chocolate and great food. You won't want to miss it!

Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!

This monthly program was so popular with our 8th grade girls last year that we've decided not only to continue it but to expand so *all* the girls can benefit from this mega-cool, award-winning, creative program. Melanie Rosenbaum will be returning to Ohev to facilitate the 9th grade group; Debby Rubenstein will facilitate the 8th grade group; and Iris Spector will facilitate the 10th grade group.



Frat Night!



Research is showing that boys become disengaged in alarming numbers after becoming b'nai mitzvah, and we at Ohev are ready to do our part to rekindle their interest in Jewish life and help rebuild Jewish identities. *Frat Night!* is more than the guys' answer to *It's a Girl Thing!* The boys will get together once a month for awesome activities and games to discover what's so cool about being a Jewish. This pilot project will be facilitated by Rabbi Dan Aronson, Brad Gellman and Aaron Greengard with consultation from experts in the field of Jewish identity development. It is our goal to become part of the next stage of Moving Traditions' national pilot project, Campaign for Boys, in 2010 and help set the pace for Jewish young men's programming across the country.

Plus, visiting speakers, parties, and more!