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מדריך

5769
2008-2009

Parent/Student Handbook

Midrasha in Berkeley

East Bay Jewish Community High School

*Sponsored by the congregations of Aquarian Minyan,
Beth Abraham, Beth El, Beth Hillel, Beth Israel, Beth Jacob,
B'nai Israel, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Netivot Shalom,
Sha'ar Zahav & the Jewish Community Federation of the
Greater East Bay's Center for Jewish Living and Learning.*

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Students,

You should already have received our Midrasha catalogue with its overview of our classes and programs. That catalogue presents teens with a streamlined look at Midrasha. We are certain however that families will still have questions about the program and this handbook will try to answer any questions you may have.

All of you, as part of the wonderful Midrasha community, are to be congratulated. Across the country, it is rare for students to come together from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Renewal and unaffiliated communities, much less for such a school to thrive and grow for 39 years. We are a true communal institution, sponsored by Congregations Beth Abraham, Beth El, Beth Hillel, Beth Israel, Beth Jacob, B'nai Israel, Netivot Shalom, Sha'ar Zahav, Kehilla Community Synagogue, and the Aquarian Minyan, in co-sponsorship with the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Center for Jewish Living and Learning.

Research has shown that the Jewish learning which takes place in the high school years is crucial to the formation of Jewish identity. Such learning is fostered at Midrasha, which provides a serious academic as well as an important social experience for our students. This dual focus is reflected in our course selections, school structure and special events.

Midrasha is open to any 8th – 12th grade student in the East Bay Jewish community with or without previous religious school experience or synagogue affiliation. We encourage our students not only to come on Sunday but to attend our Thursday midweek text class and Tuesday evening class on the Mystical Visions of God, as well as classes of the other three East Bay Midrashot: in Oakland (Tuesday evening), Contra Costa (Wednesday evening), and Tri-Valley/ Tri-Cities (Sunday evening). Throughout the system, teachers are dynamic, charismatic and knowledgeable and “you will find classes that will answer your questions and classes that will question your answers.”

If you have any further questions, either now or at any time during the year, I can be phoned at 843-4667, e-mailed at diane@midrasha.org, or faxed at 843-4642. Questions on financial matters should be directed to Desmid Lyon, desmid@midrasha.org. We look forward to a wonderful school year together.

Sincerely,

Diane Bernbaum
Director, Midrasha

Desmid Lyon
Assistant Director, Midrasha

A LETTER FROM THE CJLL RETREAT PROGRAM

Dear Midrasha Students and Families,

Welcome to the Midrasha retreat program! Whether you are a brand new student or returning for another wonderful year of Midrasha, we hope you will join us for the Midrasha retreat program. The Youth Services Department of the Center for Jewish Living and Learning (CJLL) wants to share with you our excitement for what promises to be an outstanding year of dynamic retreats. We have a talented, dedicated and professional staff that looks forward to sharing fun, safe, and meaningful experiences with each of you.

Gesharim, Etgar, and Keshet retreats are truly a highlight of the Midrasha program. These retreats provide a place for students from our four community school sites to come together to learn, worship, explore, celebrate Shabbat and have fun in a warm, welcoming and inclusive community. Our retreat programs allow the classroom curriculum to come to life and encourage students to build friendships that will last a lifetime, all within a beautiful outdoor setting. Many of the outstanding teachers from the Midrasha sites are part of our retreat staff and continue learning with their students outside the walls of the classroom.

The CJLL is committed to making these retreats accessible and affordable for every Midrasha student. In order to do this, each Etgar or Keshet student is eligible for an optional stipend of up to \$260 towards their retreat fees, provided by the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay. Students needing additional financial aid may contact the Midrasha Director at their site.

In addition to our Etgar, Keshet, and Gesharim retreat programs, the CJLL offers many opportunities for students to connect to meaningful Jewish experiences throughout the year including:

- Rites of Passage – A Jewish wilderness adventure for 8th grade students
- Panim el Panim – 11th and 12th grade students travel to Washington D.C. to learn advocacy skills and see our government through Jewish eyes.
- Hadracha (Leadership Training Track) – 11th grade students work with the Etgar (9th grade) program, first as observers and peer role models, then gradually taking on leadership and programming roles in the retreats.
- Gesharim Day Trip – 8th grade students spend a day in San Francisco meeting each other and studying immigration.
- Shalhevet – A ten-week class on the Holocaust and Eastern European Jewish culture and a two week trip to Poland and Israel in the Spring for 11th and 12th graders.

A LETTER FROM THE CJLL RETREAT PROGRAM (*Cont'd*)

- Let's Go Israel – a four-week summer trip to Israel for 10th and 11th graders.

For more information about any of these programs or our retreat program, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you this year!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi James Brandt
Executive Director, CJLL
510-839-2900, ext 231

Michal Marks
Director of Educational Services
510-839-2900, ext. 234

Julia Mora
CJLL Program Registrar
510-839-2900, ext. 235

Ohad Meyer
Director of Youth Programs
510-839-2900, ext. 267

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u><i>A Letter From The Director</i></u>	2
<u><i>A Letter From The Cjll Retreat Program</i></u>	3
<u><i>Sunday Morning Calendar 2008-2009 / 5769</i></u>	5
<u><i>Retreats and Non-Formal Events</i></u>	6
<u><i>Midrasha Statement of Purpose</i></u>	7
<u><i>Summary of Core Curriculum</i></u>	7
<u><i>Midweek Classes</i></u>	7
<u><i>Enrollment and Location</i></u>	8
<u><i>Retreat Programs And Core Classes</i></u>	8
<u><i>Additional Programs</i></u>	10
<u><i>Other Programs</i></u>	11
<u><i>Fee Schedule 2008-2009</i></u>	12
<u><i>Explanation of Fees</i></u>	13
<u><i>Additional Information</i></u>	14
<u><i>School Structure</i></u>	17
<u><i>Israel</i></u>	18
<u><i>Parent Education</i></u>	19
<u><i>Midrasha Projects and Social Action</i></u>	20
<u><i>Fundraising</i></u>	21
<u><i>Faculty</i></u>	22
<u><i>Midrasha Directory</i></u>	24
<u><i>Center for Jewish Living and Learning (CJLL)</i></u>	25

SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR 2008-2009 / 5769

*Orientation for 8th graders and new students and parents:
Monday, August 25, 7:30 P.M.*

Sunday morning classes meet from 9:30-12:30

September	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	
October	5	Rites of Passage – optional 8 th grade backpacking trip
	12	
	19	
	26	Rites of Passage – optional 8 th grade backpacking trip
November	2	Parent/Student Study Brunch and Silent Auction
	9	Etgar (9 th) Retreat, Special Gesharim (8 th) Program
	16	
	23	Kesher (10-12 th) Retreat
	30	NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving
December	7	10/11 th Let's Go Israel! Trip Recruitment 11 th /12 th Program: "Packing for College" 11 th /12 th Shalhevet Recruitment Gesharim (8 th) Day Trip to San Francisco Special 9 th Grade Family Program: Building Healthy Relationships
	14	
	21	NO SCHOOL, Winter break
	28	NO SCHOOL, Winter break
January	4	NO SCHOOL, Winter break
	11	
	18	
	25	
February	1	Kesher (10-12 th) Retreat
	8	Midrasha Seudah (tentative)
	15	NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Weekend
	22	Etgar (9 th) Retreat, Gesharim Parent/Teen Program
March	1	
	8	
	15	

March 22

29 Intro to Etgar for 8th grade parents

April 5 Keshet (10-12th) Retreat, NO SCHOOL, Spring break

12 NO SCHOOL, Spring break

19

26

May 3

10

17 Graduation and last session

Etgar (9th) and Gesharim (8th) Retreat

RETREATS AND NON-FORMAL EVENTS

GESHARIM (8th grade) SPECIAL EVENTS AND PARENT PROGRAMS

October 3-5 Rites of Passage Backpack Trip I (optional)

October 24-26 Rites of Passage Backpack Trip II (optional)

November 9 Special Gesharim Program on Disabilities

February 22 Family Program: Parent/ Teen Communication

March 29 Intro to Etgar for Parents

May 15-17 Gesharim Retreat

ETGAR RETREATS (9th grade) AND PARENT PROGRAMS

November 7-9

December 7

Family Program: Building
Healthy Relationships

February 20-22

May 15-17

KESHER RETREATS (10-12th grade)

November 21-23

January 30 – February 1

April 3-5

FAMILY EDUCATION DAYS

November 2 Parent/Student Study Brunch and Silent Auction

December 7 Building Healthy Relationships (9th grade families)

Israel Trip Recruitment (10th grade families)

“Packing for College” (11th, 12th grade families)

Shalhevet Recruitment (11th, 12th grade families)

February 22 Parent/ Teen Communication (8th grade families)

March 29 Intro to Etgar

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Tanach/Talmud Class with Zvi Septimus and David Henkin

4:15-6:15 p.m., Thursdays, beginning September 11

Mystical Visions of God Class with Rabbi Menachem Creditor

6:15-7:15 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 28

MIDRASHA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Midrasha provides Jewish learning to high school students in northern Alameda and western Contra Costa counties in a supplementary setting. It offers a broad range of interesting and challenging courses to students with a strong Jewish background and to those with little former training or knowledge—classes ranging from Talmud and Hebrew to Jewish films and drama. The program provides students with the skills and knowledge they will need as committed Jewish adults. Midrasha offers a larger social group of Jewish teenagers than exists at any one synagogue and the opportunity to form lasting friendships. The program provides a warm social environment in the classroom and at retreat weekends. In addition, our faculty provides our students with positive, knowledgeable role models of successful young Jewish adults who are at home in Judaism and the secular world.

Midrasha is an inter-congregational school where members of all congregations feel at home. Midrasha is part of a community system of four supplementary high schools under the aegis of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Center for Jewish Living and Learning. Although our students represent a broad range of religious observance, Kashrut and Shabbat are observed. Midrasha is a communal institution, open to non-synagogue members as well as those affiliated. Financial aid is available to all in need.

SUMMARY OF CORE CURRICULUM

The following is a summary of the core courses that students will study in their five years at Midrasha. This curriculum is supplemented by a large number of elective courses, including Hebrew, literature, art, drama, music, and all aspects of Judaica.

- In 8th grade in their core hour, Gesharim students study ethics, concentrating on: tzedakah, poverty and homelessness, social justice, parent-student communication and obligations, Jews by choice, drugs/alcohol/smoking, death and mourning, animal rights, war and protecting the earth. The class is supplemented by a weekend retreat and a day trip.
- In 9th grade in their core hour, Etgar students study Jewish identity. Their curriculum units are 1) Who We Are, 2) My Piece of the Puzzle (including comparative Judaism), 3) To Whom We Relate (relationships, friendship, I/Thou, dating, marriage and family) and 4) How We Relate to Others. This class is supplemented by three weekend retreats.

SUMMARY OF CORE CURRICULUM (*Cont'd*)

- In 10th – 12th grade in their core hour, students study Bible first semester and either Jewish history or Bible second semester. Each semester there are several courses from which to choose.
- While Keshet, the 10th – 12th grade classroom and retreat program, is technically an elective, nearly all students choose to participate. Tenth graders in Keshet Aleph study Israeli history, culture, literature, and politics. Eleventh and twelfth graders in Keshet Bet spend one year studying the American Jewish experience (history, demography, sociology, politics, literature and culture) and one year studying Jewish thought and spirituality. This is supplemented with three weekend retreats.
- Our Thursday afternoon text class chooses one theme each year and follows it through the Bible and Talmud.
- Our Tuesday evening class this year will cover “Mystical Visions of God.”

ENROLLMENT AND LOCATION

Midrasha is open to all students in 8th through 12th grades. One need not be a member of a congregation or have previous religious school experience to enroll. Sunday morning classes are held at Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley. The midweek afternoon Talmud / Tanach class is held at Congregation Beth Israel, 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The Tuesday evening Mystical Visions class is held at Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First Hour (9:30-10:20)

Break (10:20-10:40)

Second Hour (10:45-11:35)

Third Hour (11:40-12:30)

RETREAT PROGRAMS AND CORE CLASSES

The Gesharim, Etgar and Keshet programs are sponsored jointly by the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Center for Jewish Living and Learning and the midrashot in Berkeley, Oakland, Contra Costa, and Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities. For any questions on the retreat portion of these programs contact Michal Marx, Director of Educational Services or Ohad Meyer, Director of Youth Programs. They may be reached at michal@jfed.org or ohad@jfed.org or 839-2900 ext. 234 (Michal) or 267 (Ohad). For details on fees, see the Fees section.

RETREAT PROGRAMS AND CORE CLASSES (*Cont'd*)

Retreats provide a safe environment for teens to explore, experience, and experiment with different ways of being Jewish while tackling the tough questions they face today. On retreats students celebrate Shabbat and forge friendships, crossing denominational and geographic boundaries. Retreats further explore the themes covered in class while students participate in a variety of educational and social activities. Teaching staff members are selected to provide a wide variety of Jewish role models, to expand students' repertoire of adult Jewish identities, and to be models of intellectual pursuit and religious observance. When students register for Keshet, Etgar or Gesharim retreats, they are making a commitment to attend weekly classes and weekend retreats. There is no prorating of fees for missed retreats or trips. And we are not able to refund your money or prorate your fee even if you anticipate conflicts with sports events, performances or other activities. You will receive e-mails directly from the CJLL before each retreat, reminding you to RSVP by the deadline to avoid a \$25 late fee. Families will receive a retreat-specific manual from the CJLL by snail mail and e-mail which will explain this process and the retreats in more detail.

GESHARIM ("Bridges" in Hebrew), the 8th grade curriculum, explores selected topics in Jewish ethics. Besides the regular Sunday morning Gesharim classes and special programs, the Gesharim fee also covers both a retreat on May 15-17 and a day trip to San Francisco on December 7. In addition there is an optional 3-day wilderness backpacking trip (Rites of Passage) designed to experience nature through Jewish eyes, offered on October 3-5 or October 24-26 for an additional fee. Registration for Rites of Passage must be completed by September 12 for Rites of Passage I or October 10 for Rites of Passage II. There are a limited number of participants on these camping trips and spaces fill up on a first-come, first-served basis. If students want to cancel from the Rites of Passage trip after they have signed up, they must do so no later than one week before the trip leaves, except in cases of illness with a doctor's note. Parents are invited to join their students on February 22 at 9:30 a.m. for a workshop on parent/teen communication and on March 29 for an introduction to the 9th grade Etgar program.

ETGAR ("Challenge" in Hebrew) is divided into four units dealing with different aspects of Jewish identity, from self-perception and personal observance to communal diversity and responsibility. The retreats are an integral and mandatory part of the Etgar program. Retreat dates for this academic year are: November 7-9, February 20-22 and May 15-17. In addition parents are invited to join their teens for a Midrasha program on December 7 on building healthy relationships.

RETREAT PROGRAMS AND CORE CLASSES (*Cont'd*)

KESHER (“Connection” in Hebrew) students are divided by grade. Tenth graders in Keshet Aleph study Israeli history, culture, literature, and politics. Eleventh and twelfth graders in Keshet Bet spend one year studying the American Jewish experience (history, demography, sociology, politics, literature and culture) and one year studying Jewish thought and spirituality. An inherent component of the Keshet class experience is an emphasis on community building and creating a space for Jewish teens to interact with each other in a meaningful way. Both Keshet Aleph and Bet students will be on retreats at the same site during the same time and will be separated only for educational pe’ulot (activities). Both groups will share meals, housing, t’fillot (prayers) and social activities. It is possible to attend the weekly Keshet classes without making a commitment to attend retreats, but it is not possible to attend the Keshet retreats without being an enrolled Midrasha student who attends Keshet class regularly. Retreat dates for this academic year are: November 21-23, January 30- February 1, and April 3-5.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Midrasha hopes that five or more hours of study per week will become the norm for many students. Students may enroll in the following classes in addition to Sunday morning classes or as an independent option.

MIDWEEK TANACH AND TALMUD CLASS

David Henkin and Zvi Septimus

4:15-6:15 p.m., Thursdays

Class meets at Congregation Beth Israel, 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

This course is an informal but intensive study group focusing on close thematic readings of the Tanach and Talmud in translation. There will be one theme that David will follow through the Tanach and Zvi will explore in rabbinic/Talmudic literature. The class begins on September 11 and will continue weekly except for Jewish holidays and school vacations. The exact meeting schedule will be set with the students and teacher.

MYSTICAL VISIONS OF GOD

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

6:15-7:15 p.m., Tuesdays

Class meets at Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Avenue, Berkeley and begins October 28

OTHER PROGRAMS

For information on all programs listed below with the exception of Confirmation contact Ohad Meyer at the CJLL 839-2900, ext. 267, ohad@jfed.org.

HADRACHA

Hadracha, our leadership training track, is open to 11th graders enrolled in Kesher. During 11th grade, participants meet regularly to learn leadership techniques and theory. Students work with the Etgar program, first as observers and peer role models, then gradually taking on leadership and programming roles in the program. Enrollment is selective as Hadracha students are chosen and trained to be role models throughout the East Bay Jewish teen community and a significant time commitment is involved. There is an additional fee of \$200 for eleventh graders in Hadracha, billed directly by the CJLL.

PANIM EL PANIM

11th and 12th grade students will be offered the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to see our U.S. government in action through Jewish eyes. Participation is by application. This year's trip will be in the spring.

SHALHEVET

11th and 12th grade students journey through Jewish history during a 10-week spring semester class and a two-week trip to Poland and Israel. Curriculum includes the life of pre-World War II Polish Jewry, the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Questions on Shalhevet should be directed to Yaron Lipschitz, 415 751-6983 ext 106 or ylipschitz@bjesf.org

CONFIRMATION

Tenth graders from Congregation Beth El and Temple Beth Abraham are eligible to participate in their congregation's Confirmation ceremony. Students wishing to participate should contact their congregational rabbi to learn further details. Beth El and Beth Abraham 10th graders will be expected to enroll in a Midrasha class taught by their rabbi during the 2nd semester.

ABRAHAM'S VISION

Open to 11th and 12th graders, this Inter-group Muslim and Jewish Conflict Transformation Program combines class learning, meetings with students from an Islamic school and field trips to create an environment where students learn with and from the "other". Further information on this program can be found at <http://www.abrahamsvision.org>.

FEE SCHEDULE 2008-2009

LATE FEE: In an effort to eliminate first day confusion, there will be a \$25 late fee assessed to any family whose registration materials have not arrived at the Midrasha office by September 1, 2008.

Members Affiliated with Midrasha-Sponsoring Synagogues:

- Sunday morning or midweek Tanach/Talmud tuition **\$675**
- Tuesday night Mystical Visions *only* (no Sun. or T/T) **\$340**
- Unsubsidized cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$920**
- Subsidized cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$660**

Unaffiliated Families:

- Sunday morning or midweek Tanach/Talmud tuition **\$925**
- Unsubsidized cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$965**
- Subsidized cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$705**

All Families:

- Midweek Tanach/Talmud Text Class *in addition* to Sun. **\$310**
- Tuesday night Mystical Visions *in addition* to Sun. or T/T **\$155**
- Gesharim (8th grade) fee, required **\$200**
- Rites of Passage I or II **\$200**

Abraham's Vision Intergroup Education for Muslim and Jewish 11th & 12th Grade Students:

- If enrolled at Midrasha in Berkeley **\$ no charge**
- If enrolled at a different Midrasha **\$155**
- If not enrolled at any Midrasha **\$255**

There is a sibling discount of \$30 for the 2nd or 3rd Midrasha in Berkeley student concurrently enrolled from the same family.

Please contact the Midrasha Assistant Director, Desmid Lyon, desmid@midrasha.org or 843-4667, with any questions on the above fees or if you need to set up a payment plan or request a financial aid application.

We ask that your check accompany your registration form, made payable to MIDRASHA.

Please make sure that the student's name is marked on the check.

EXPLANATION OF FEES

Midrasha is a community school. It is supported by a partnership of synagogues, parents and the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay's Center for Jewish Living and Learning. Each synagogue pays a set amount per student to fulfill its institutional responsibility to support Midrasha. In addition, a substantial part of our operating budget comes directly from the Jewish Community Federation and Foundation of the Greater East Bay. It costs \$1663 per year to educate each student and our tuition is \$675. As you can see in the fee structure above, this amount is heavily subsidized by Federation grants and subsidies (\$223/student), synagogues (\$250/student) and our fundraising efforts (\$515/student). Since synagogues contribute financially towards each student's education at Midrasha, synagogue members pay a tuition lower than that of unaffiliated students. The difference in tuition between \$675 for affiliated students and \$925 for unaffiliated students represents the amount we would have received from their synagogue if they were affiliated.

- All students are billed directly by Midrasha for both classes and retreats. Checks should be made payable to Midrasha.
- There are additional Etgar and Keshet fees for 9th – 12th graders. These fees help to cover the cost of the camp weekend retreats. You will be billed for the cost of the retreats along with your Midrasha tuition. Fees are NOT prorated for missed weekends. The maximally-subsidized cost is \$660. The partially-subsidized cost of the weekend retreats for the Etgar and Keshet programs is \$920.
- The difference between \$660 and \$920 is subsidized by the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay. Due to the increasing popularity of these programs, the subsidy dollars are stretched over many more families from year to year. Families that can afford to pay the unsubsidized fee are encouraged to do so. The difference in tuition between \$660/\$920 for affiliated students and \$705/\$965 for unaffiliated students represents the amount we would have received from their synagogue if they were affiliated.
- A select number of 11th graders participate in the Hadracha leadership training program. There is a \$200 fee for Hadracha, which will be billed directly by the Center for Jewish Living and Learning.
- Gesharim (8th grade) students are billed \$200, which covers curriculum materials, the Gesharim retreat, the day in San Francisco and other special programs. The fee is charged to all 8th graders, whether or not they participate in the retreat and special programs, since the fees also fund curriculum materials and the Gesharim coordinator.

EXPLANATION OF FEES (*Cont'd*)

- Financial concerns should never be a reason to not attend Midrasha or participate in the retreat programs. Financial aid is available. Our annual fund-raising Seudah, Silent Auction and generous donations through our annual fall appeal make this financial aid possible. Contact the Midrasha office for a financial aid form. Please note that any student attending Midrasha for 5 sessions is liable for tuition for the entire year. If you are unsure about your participation in the program, feel free to come and see what it's like for the first 4 weeks. However, please fill out all registration materials even if you are just "trying it out." We are required to have emergency contact information and signatures for every student who is onsite.
- Please make your check for tuition and retreat fees payable to MIDRASHA. Note that due to IRS regulations which went into effect January 1, 2007 we CANNOT accept any tuition check which says "donation" anywhere on the check. Any check containing tuition only, or tuition and a donation, which is marked "donation", will be mailed back to you with a request for a new check. Please save us the cost of mailing your check back to you and do not write the word "donation" anywhere on your tuition check. If your check includes tuition in full plus a donation (but is NOT marked donation), or if you send us a separate donation check, we will send you a tax receipt in the mail for the donation amount.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REACHING US

The Midrasha office as well as our Sunday morning program are housed at 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709. Our phone number is (510) 843-4667. Our fax number is 843-4642. Our e-mail address is diane@midrasha.org and for financial questions, desmid@midrasha.org. We send out frequent updates and announcements via e-mail, including separate weekly announcements, usually on Thursdays to both parents and students. Please print your e-address clearly on your registration form. Since the vast majority of families are on-line, we often use e-mail as our only means of communication. Please make every effort to update us with accurate e-addresses and if you don't have one, ask a friend to alert you to any important announcements. Please also make sure Midrasha e-mail is not getting caught in your spam filter.

MIDRASHA WEBSITE

Check out our website at www.midrasha.org. Second semester courses will be posted in December.

REGISTRATION

If you are receiving this handbook, you have probably already enrolled your student at Midrasha. Keep in mind that some students decide on courses based on subject matter and some by the teacher. (Choosing classes solely because a friend is in the class, is probably the least effective way to ensure that students will enjoy the

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

REGISTRATION (*Cont'd*)

course!) New students may want to consult with returning students. Although there is room for everyone at Midrasha, space in courses is filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is to your advantage to return your registration form as soon as possible. If your child is unhappy in a class, encourage them to talk to the director to switch into a class they will enjoy more. There is one combined registration form for Sunday and midweek Midrasha classes, and the Etgar, Kesher, Gesharim and Rites of Passage programs.

PARENT HELP

Included in the registration material is a parent survey to indicate the skills and talents parents and teens can share with Midrasha, including social action through our homeless meal program. Midrasha continues to be grateful for the generosity of its parent volunteers who help make the program run so smoothly. Weekly e-mails often contain volunteer opportunities.

JOB BANK

Midrasha publishes a list of students who are available to do various jobs such as baby-sitting, tutoring, party help, yard, computer, or secretarial work, pet sitting, sukkah building, or lifting and moving. If a student is interested in having his or her name listed as available to perform these services, please fill out the section on the registration form. Copies of the job bank are mailed out to anyone requesting them. Our job bank has become very popular, particularly among parents looking for babysitters. It pays to sign up.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Midrasha seeks to accommodate a diverse student body. If your student has either physical or educational special needs, please speak with the Midrasha Director. Because there are always many choices each hour, both in terms of instructors and courses, we can help you choose the most appropriate one for your student. You may also contact Jodi Tharan, Director of Special Educational Services at the Jewish Community Federation, 839-2900, ext. 263.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE AND FOR JOBS

The Director of Midrasha provides letters of recommendation to all seniors to add to their college applications and to students and graduates applying for jobs. While some students think that attendance at Midrasha might interfere with time doing homework, those who attend find that, on the contrary, their attendance at Midrasha is impressive on their college applications and is often the basis for their college essays.

CLASS PASSES

We have a liberal class change policy, when adhering to the rules; however, Midrasha has a strict policy that teachers NOT allow students in their rooms who are not on their rosters without a "class change slip" from the office. If you do not

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

like the class you have chosen, go to the office to discuss changing it. All visitors to Midrasha must stop in the office for a visitor pass.

SIGNING OUT

Any student who leaves Midrasha before 12:30 dismissal must sign out in the Midrasha office.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Midrasha has established emergency procedures for fire and earthquakes. In the event of a severe catastrophe, please pick up your son/daughter as soon as possible. Students providing their own transportation will be asked to sign out before they leave. Any student not called for after a reasonable amount of time will go to the home of the Director.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND CAR POOLS

These Traffic and Parking Rules are designed to:

- Provide a safe environment for everyone.
- Maximize pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- Minimize vehicle congestion, queuing, and parking on public streets by vehicles associated with Beth El.
- Keep parking spaces on Oxford and Spruce Streets available for neighborhood use.
- Promote respectful driving and parking practices by everyone who attends programs at Congregation Beth El.

GENERAL BETH EL PARKING AND TRAFFIC RULES

Please note that Berkeley Police will issue citations for traffic and parking violations.

1. Our driveway is one-way eastbound.
2. When entering the driveway, you must be headed northbound on Oxford, turning right (east) into Beth El. Left turns are not permitted into the Beth El driveway.
3. When exiting the driveway, all cars must turn right (south) onto Spruce.
4. California Vehicle Driving Code and/or Beth El policy prohibit the following actions:
 - a Double parking in our neighborhood
 - b Parking in a red zone
 - c Blocking neighbors' driveways, even "just for a minute or two"
 - d Making U-turns in the street or in neighbors' driveways
 - e Honking horns in and around our property, except in emergency

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

Specific Rules for Midrasha

1. Form or join a carpool. If you phone the Midrasha office, we will provide you with a list of students in your area.
2. Please make a meeting place to pick up your student or carpool somewhere other than right in front of the building. Choose a spot a few blocks away.
3. Drop-off students along the Beth El driveway, pulling forward as far as possible.
4. For pick-up, students should wait for pick-up along the Beth El driveway. Always pull to the right to stop so that others can pass.
5. Students who drive should park in the First American Title parking lot on Rose Street or in the underground garage at Safeway (both are free to Beth El/Midrasha users.) Students who drive - please provide rides to other students if you can LEGALLY do so.

If you have any questions about the Traffic and Parking Rules, please contact Richie Andler, Beth El Executive Director, at 510-848-3988, Ext. 212.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

BREAK AND BREAKFAST

For 10 minutes before Midrasha begins, students can purchase baguettes, donuts and drinks. This gives students a chance to grab a bite to eat, see friends and get to class on time. There is also a 20-minute break between first and second periods where students can socialize and snack. All food on sale and food at all Midrasha functions is Kosher. During break students may participate in making sandwiches for the homeless or just "hanging out." Students may not leave school grounds during the break.

ATTENDANCE

Parents often ask how they can help with the school. Here's how: Encourage good attendance and promptness. We urge you to help create the proper learning environment by making sure your children come promptly by 9:30 a.m. and maintain excellent attendance. When teachers are able to teach a consistent group of students, classes are more enjoyable for everyone. Much of what constitutes a rich Jewish education consists of the acquisition of value concepts and language skills, requiring the interchange that takes place in the classroom. Therefore consistent attendance is very important.

TZEDAKAH

Midrasha is committed to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Teachers collect tzedakah at the beginning of the first hour class. At the end of the year each class decides how to allocate the funds it has raised. Last year's tzedakah went to American Jewish World Service (for Cyclone Nargis Relief), YEAH teen shelter, HOMEY, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, East Bay Humane Society and Friends of the Israel Defense Forces.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

LIBRARY

Midrasha has assembled a lending library, which is housed on a rolling cart during Midrasha hours. We continually encourage students to check out the books and we welcome donations to the library.

WHAT IS THE THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING AND LEARNING (CJLL)?

The CJLL is the educational department of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay. CJLL operates the Etgar, Keshet, Hadracha, Gesharim, Rites of Passage and Panim el Panim programs, as well as any other programs open to all teens in the East Bay Jewish community. A staff directory for the CJLL is found on the back cover of this handbook.

ISRAEL

SUMMER ISRAEL TRIPS

Each year many of our students, at the end of their tenth or eleventh grade year, travel to Israel with our community trip, "Lets Go Israel!," sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay. Traveling with Midrasha friends, students enjoy educational, spiritual and social experiences that last a lifetime. In addition to the community trip, there are a variety of other summer trips for teenagers available. Midrasha encourages its students to participate in any of them. A detailed list of trips available can be obtained from the Jewish Community Federation's Israel Center at 839-2900 ext. 256. Tali Lipshitz, director of the Let's Go Israel! trip, will be at Midrasha on December 7 to talk to 10th and 11th graders and their parents about the community trip. She can be reached via email at tali@jfed.org or at 839-2900 ext. 255.

SHALHEVET

Course: January-May 2009

Journey: March 2009

Shalhevet ("flame" in Hebrew) is an experiential learning opportunity for Bay Area juniors and seniors that includes a 2-week trip to Poland and Israel with a local Holocaust survivor. Beginning in January students will participate in classes before and after the trip, studying European Jewish history, the Holocaust and Israel. Upon their return students will create projects and share their experiences with the community. Application will be accepted beginning in October 2008. Shalhevet is a dynamic collaboration between the Holocaust Center of Northern California and the Bureau of Jewish Education. For interest and questions please contact Morgan Blum, mblum@henc.org and Yaron Lipshitz, yilipschitz@bjesf.org. As with all Midrasha programs, financial aid is available.

ISRAEL (*Cont'd*)

POST HIGH SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

Each year many of our Midrasha students elect to spend the year following their high school graduation studying in Israel. For a list of possible opportunities, contact the Jewish Community Federation's Israel Center at 839-2900 ext. 256. There are scholarship grants available, including the Irving and Shirley Fields Fund which is especially for graduates of Midrasha in Berkeley.

BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIP AND HERITAGE INTERNSHIP FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The Bronfman Fellowship is a five-week, all expenses paid intense study trip to Israel for students during the summer between their 11th and 12th grades. Only 26 students are selected nationally each year, but Midrasha has been fortunate to have a Fellow in almost every year of the program. Juniors seeking more information should contact the office or Midrasha board chair Yossi Fendel who has been a Fellow.

Legacy Heritage Internship for Young Scientists is a similarly selective, all expenses paid six weeks in Israel, doing scientific research at Hebrew University. If your teen has questions on the program, the Midrasha office can connect you with past students who have received this honor.

PARENT EDUCATION

PARENT/STUDENT BRUNCH

On November 2 we will hold our annual parent-student brunch during regular school hours, 9:30 – 12:30. The morning will consist of a brunch and classes with our faculty. This is an excellent opportunity to study as a family and meet the Midrasha teachers. Our annual Silent Auction will be held at the brunch, so come bid on your favorite treats...and let us know beforehand if you have goods or services to donate.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

On December 7, 9th grade parents will join their teens for a workshop on "Healthy Relationships," facilitated by Shalom Bayit.

On December 7 there will be a workshop for 11th and 12th graders and their parents on college issues called "Packing for College," based on curriculum written by the Union of Reform Judaism.

On February 22, 8th graders and their parents will participate in a workshop on Communication with Teens with the staff of Jewish Family and Children's Services.

On March 29 we will be having a workshop on "Etgar for Parents," introducing the retreat programs to parents of 8th graders and any other interested parents.

MIDRASHA PROJECTS AND SOCIAL ACTION

MONTHLY HOMELESS DINNERS

Midrasha is committed to helping the community by preparing and serving dinner on the first Wednesday, third Tuesday and fourth Thursday night of each month at the men's shelter run by the City of Berkeley. We need volunteers to assist in shopping, cooking and serving. This is a perfect family activity. If you can't come to the shelter, consider baking cookies at home. We are also always happy to receive donations to underwrite this activity. This project is coordinated entirely by Midrasha students. Scheduling questions should be directed to Lindsay Martien 225-8952 (buygoopysoupy@yahoo.com), Amira Kipnis 527-7024 (akipnis@headroyce.org), Ariel Karwat 289-3731 (bubblebibibaby@yahoo.com), Zach Piser 701-2619 (piserfam@comcast.net) and Ziva Sholin 717-9482 (zivalikewhoa@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Colvin 549-3716 (chaya100@comcast.net).

SANDWICHES AT BREAK

Each Sunday Midrasha students prepare sandwiches during break, which are delivered by volunteer parents to a local shelter.

OPPORTUNITIES TO FULFILL COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Whether it's cooking at a shelter, tutoring reading or providing holiday gifts for the needy, Midrasha provides various ways to fulfill community service obligations at our students' secular schools. Just ask the Midrasha office to sign off when students volunteer through one of our activities.

JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

Midrasha families have the opportunity to volunteer with **JCL-THE JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY**. We serve as reading tutors on a one-to-one basis, an hour a week in the Berkeley schools. Tutoring occurs either during school hours or as a part of an after school program. Tutors can be adults, teenagers (16 and older) or even younger family members if accompanied by a parent. There is a two and a half hour training session for all tutors. Being a tutor requires a commitment of a semester, although a year-long commitment is preferable. If you have more questions about this program, visit the JCL website at www.jclread.org or contact Helene Tinkler, helene@jfed.org, 839-2900 ext. 272.

PURIM AT MIDRASHA

In an effort to further bond the Midrasha community, we organize a swap of mish-loach manot – hamantaschen and other Purim treats. Each family is assigned a few families to whom to deliver their treats and hopefully they will in turn receive plates of goodies on their own doorstep. No family is obliged to participate, but those that do find it a wonderful (and delicious) experience. If you want to decline participation, make sure you check off that option on the registration form.

FUNDRAISING

ANNUAL APPEAL

Beginning in 1986 Midrasha embarked on an organized program of fundraising. This brings in much-needed and much-appreciated support. We have tax exempt 501 (c) 3 nonprofit status and appreciate any donations made.

MIDRASHA SILENT AUCTION

Each year at our annual Parent/Student Study Brunch we hold a Silent Auction. This year's event is November 2. This is a lot of fun, a chance to buy wonderful things and to help Midrasha at the same time. We need parents to come and bid enthusiastically and we also need donations of goods and services. Contact the Midrasha office if you have something to donate.

MIDRASHA SPRING SEUDAH

Although we are delighted with the funds raised through our Silent Auction and Annual Appeal, we find that we need to raise extra money for our scholarship fund through our annual Seudah (festive meal). This elegant party with great entertainment will tentatively take place on February 8. Treat yourself to an enjoyable evening out and support Midrasha as well.

THE REBECCA FEILER MEMORIAL MIDRASHA DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The family of Rebecca Feiler, Midrasha Class of 2000, in appreciation to Midrasha and the Midrasha Community, initiated a memorial fund to be used as a "Midrasha Director's Discretionary Fund." This fund is to be used at the discretion of the Midrasha director to support the needs of the program or to fill other needs of the Midrasha community and to provide indirect scholarship assistance to Midrasha students.

GRANTS

We are very pleased and thankful to be the recipient of several very generous grants. The Jewish Community Federation and Foundation of the Greater East Bay provides much needed funds for operations and financial aid. Sinai Memorial and many family foundations also generously help support our program.

FACULTY SABBATICAL

Midrasha is very proud to have instituted our version of a faculty sabbatical. After teaching at Midrasha for six semesters, teachers have the option to spend one hour of a future semester of instruction observing classes, rather than teaching. This program encourages teachers to learn from each other, helping make Midrasha – already an educational community – become even more a community of educators. In the past this opportunity has gone to Yossi Fendel, Sacha Kopin, Muni Schweig, Shoshana Uribe, Abbey Herman and David Neufeld.

FACULTY

DEVRA C. AARONS begins her fifth year teaching at Midrasha. She has a B.A. in Theatre (Directing) from Arizona State University and studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Currently she is the Director of Midrasha in Contra Costa, a 2007 Shofar Fellow and a member of the artistic ensemble at Traveling Jewish Theatre. In addition, she is working on becoming a licensed massage therapist and writing a play about her week covering the Columbine shooting for CNBC News.

RONI ALPERIN is a playwright and director, a sabra and holds a B.A. from Tel Aviv University in Theatre Arts. He is studying in the M.A. program in Drama Therapy at California Institute of Integral Studies

RABBI MENACHEM CREDITOR is the rabbi at Congregation Netivot Shalom. He is currently a STAR:PEER fellow, is founder of ShefaNetwork: The Conservative Movement Dreaming from Within, co-founder of Keshet Rabbis: The Alliance of Gay-Friendly Conservative and Masorti Rabbis, and author of The Tisch, an electronic commentary on Jewish Spirituality.

ERICA CROWELL begins her nineteenth year at Midrasha. She is a clinical social worker and has her M.S.W. from U.C. Berkeley and her M.A. in Sociology with a specialization in religion from U.C. Davis where she also received her B.A.

DAVID HENKIN begins his twenty first year of teaching at Midrasha. He is a Professor of History at U.C. Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in American History from U.C. Berkeley and B.A. from Yale University. He is a co-founder of the Mission Minyan.

NOEMI HOLLANDER, a Midrasha alumna, is a graduate of Barnard College has tutored Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and works in the field of publishing.

SACHA J. KOPIN begins her eleventh year teaching at Midrasha in Berkeley and her sixteenth in the Midrasha system. She has served as Director of Midrasha in Contra Costa and of Beth Chaim Religious School in Danville. She is a graduate of U.C.L.A. with a B.A. in Psychology, has done graduate work in Judaic Studies at Graduate Theological Union, is a former Ti-ke-a Fellow, was awarded the 2005 Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, is a 2007 winner of the Helen Diller Family Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, an MTEI fellow, and was staff on the 2008 Shalhevet trip to Poland and Israel.

ANNA MARTIN, a Midrasha alumna, holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Barnard College and a teaching credential from San Jose State University. She teaches 7th grade public school and staffed last summer's Let's Go Israel! trip.

FACULTY (*Cont'd*)

GREG NEWMARK begins his fourth year teaching at Midrasha. He has a B.A. from Yale in History and International Studies and an M.Sc. from the Technion in City and Regional Planning. He is a Ph.D. student at U.C. Berkeley in City and Regional Planning.

BUNNY PEARLMAN begins her fourth year teaching at Midrasha. She has a B.F.A. from the University of Florida, an M.F.A. from the U.S.C. and has done postgraduate studies at Sonoma State University. She has studied in Israel with the World Union of Jewish Studies (WUJS) and has been an exhibiting artist, gallery owner and teacher of art and Jewish studies for more than forty years.

MUNI SCHWEIG begins his eighth year at Midrasha. He has a B.A. from U.C. Berkeley in Comparative Literature, an M.A. from the Hebrew University in Jewish Civilization and has been a student in the Joint Doctoral Program in Jewish Studies of U.C. Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union.

DAY SCHILDKRET has a B.A. in Judaic Studies and Political Science from Binghamton University and has studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Art Student League in New York. He is the Director of Tri – Valley / Tri – Cities Midrasha and has directed on Broadway, produced television and worked in politics.

ZVI SEPTIMUS begins his fifth year at Midrasha. He has a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies from U.C. Berkeley. He is a Ph.D. student at U.C. Berkeley in Jewish Studies, focusing on the Aesthetics of the Babylonian Talmud.

DESMID LYON, Midrasha's Assistant Director, has a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies and an M.S.W., both from U.C. Berkeley. She begins her eleventh year at Midrasha and is the parent of four Midrasha graduates.

DIANE BERNBAUM begins her twenty-eighth year as director of Midrasha. She graduated from Brandeis University majoring in Near East and Judaic Studies and in History and has a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Harvard University School of Education.

MIDRASHA DIRECTORY

MIDRASHA IN BERKELEY

510/843-4667

1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Director: Diane Bernbaum

Fax: 510/843-4642

Email: diane@midrasha.org

Website: www.midrasha.org

MIDRASHA IN OAKLAND

510/501-6692

c/o Temple Sinai, Merritt College Campus

12500 Campus Drive, Oakland, CA 94619

Director: Kendra Lubalin

Email: midrasha-oak@oaklandsinai.org

Website: www.midrasha-oak.net

MIDRASHA IN CONTRA COSTA

925/944-4701

74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Director: Devra C. Aarons

Email: office@ccmidrasha.org

Website: www.ccmidrasha.org

MIDRASHA IN TRI-VALLEY/ TRI-CITIES

925/931-1055

3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Director: Day Schildkret

Email: director.tvtcmidrasha@gmail.com

CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING AND LEARNING (CJLL)

CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING AND LEARNING (CJLL)

510/839-2900

300 Grand Avenue

Oakland, CA 94610

Fax: 510/839-3996

RABBI JAMES BRANDT

Executive Director of the CJLL

rabbibrandt@jfed.org

EXT. 231

MICHAL MARKS

Director of Educational Services

michal@jfed.org

EXT. 234

OHAD MEYER

Director of Youth Programs

ohad@jfed.org

EXT. 267

JULIA MORA

Youth Department Registrar

julia@jfed.org

EXT. 235

TALI LIPSHITZ

Israel Center

tali@jfed.org

EXT. 255

MARILYN KINCH

Israel Center Administrator

marilyn@jfed.org

EXT. 256

JODI THARAN

Director of Special Educational Services

jodi@jfed.org

EXT. 263



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