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מדרשה

5770  
2009-2010

## Parent/Student Handbook

*Midrasha in Berkeley*  
*East Bay Jewish Community High School*

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*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.*

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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**D**ear 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 40 years. We are a true communal institution, sponsored by the congregations of the 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 and Foundation of the Greater East Bay.

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 to not only come on Sunday but to attend our Monday midweek text class, 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](mailto:diane@midrasha.org), or faxed at 843-4642. Questions on financial matters should be directed to Desmid Lyon, [desmid@midrasha.org](mailto: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

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**D**ear 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 Kesher 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 Kesher 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, Kesher, 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.
- 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 together in the Bay Area.
- 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*)**

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- 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,

**Erica Zilbermann**  
*Director of Youth Services*  
510-839-2900, ext. 234

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## SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR 2009-2010 / 5770

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*Orientation for 8th graders and new students and parents:  
Thursday, September 3, 7:30 P.M.*

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

<b>September</b>	<b>13</b>	
	<b>20</b>	NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah
	<b>27</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>October</b>	<b>4</b>	Sukkot
	<b>11</b>	NO SCHOOL – Simchat Torah
	<b>18</b>	
	<b>25</b>	Etgar (9th) Retreat, Special Gesharim (8th) Program
<hr/>		
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Parent/Student Study Brunch and Silent Auction
	<b>8</b>	Rites of Passage – optional 8th grade backpacking trip
	<b>15</b>	
	<b>22</b>	Bring a Friend Day Afikomen shopping day -fundraiser
	<b>29</b>	NO SCHOOL –Thanksgiving
<hr/>		
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	10/11th Let's Go Israel! Trip Recruitment 11th/12th Program: "Packing for College" 11th/12th Shalhevet Recruitment 9th Parent/Teen Program Gesharim (8th) Day Trip to San Francisco
	<b>13</b>	Kesher (10th-12th) Retreat
	<b>20</b>	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
	<b>27</b>	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
<hr/>		
<b>January</b>	<b>3</b>	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
	<b>10</b>	
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>24</b>	
	<b>31</b>	Etgar (9th) Retreat, Gesharim (8th) Parent/Teen Program
<hr/>		
<b>February</b>	<b>7</b>	
	<b>14</b>	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Weekend

**SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR 2009-2010 / 5770 (Cont'd)**

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**February 21**

**28** Keshar (10-12th) Retreat

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**March 7**

**14** Midrasha Seudah

**21** 8th grade:  
Intro to Etgar and Gesharim Retreats

**28** NO SCHOOL -Spring Break

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**April 4** NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

**11**

**18** 7th grade open house

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

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**May 2**

**9**

**16** Keshar (10-12th) Retreat

**23** Graduation and last session

***Tanach Class with David Henkin***

4:15-5:45 pm Mondays, beginning September 14

**RETREATS AND NON-FORMAL EVENTS**

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**GESHARIM (8th grade) SPECIAL EVENTS AND PARENT PROGRAMS**

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October 25	Special Gesharim Program on Disabilities
November 6-8	Rites of Passage Backpack Trip (optional)
January 31	Family Program: Parent/ Teen Communication
March 21	Intro to Etgar for Parents
April 23-25	Gesharim Retreat

**ETGAR RETREATS (9th grade) AND PARENT PROGRAM**

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October 23-25	
December 6	Family Program: Building Healthy Relationships

January 29-31  
April 23-25

**KESHER RETREATS (10-12th grade)**

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December 11-13  
February 26-28  
May 14-16

## RETREATS AND NON-FORMAL EVENTS (*Cont'd*)

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### FAMILY EDUCATION DAYS

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November 1	Parent/Student Study Brunch and Silent Auction
December 6	Building Healthy Relationships (9th grade families) Israel Trip Recruitment (10-11th grade families) “Packing for College” (11-12th grade families) Shalhevet Recruitment (11th, 12th grade families)
January 31	Parent/ Teen Communication (8th grade families)
March 21	Intro to Etgar and Gesharim retreats (8th and 9th grade families)

## MIDRASHA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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*M*idrasha 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

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*T*he 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 Bible, Hebrew, literature, art, drama, music, and all aspects of Judaica.

## SUMMARY OF CORE CURRICULUM (*Cont'd*)

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- 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, a day trip and an optional backpacking 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.
- 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 Monday afternoon text class chooses one theme each year and follows it through the Bible.

## ENROLLMENT AND LOCATION

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**M**idrasha 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 Tanach class is held at Congregation Beth Israel, 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

### SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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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

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**T**he 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 Erica Zilbermann, Director of Youth Services. She may be reached at erica@jfed.org or 839-2900 ext. 234 . For details on fees, see the Fees section.

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 April 23-25 and a day trip on December 6. In addition there is an optional 3-day wilderness backpacking trip (Rites of Passage) designed to experience nature through Jewish eyes, offered on November 6-8 for an additional fee. Registration for Rites of Passage must be completed by October 19. There are a limited number of participants on this camping trip 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 January 31 at 9:30 a.m. for a workshop on parent/teen communication and on March 21 for an introduction to the Gesharim and Etgar retreat 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: October 23-25,

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

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January 29-31, and April 23-25. In addition parents are invited to join their teens for a Midrasha program on December 6 on building healthy relationships.

**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: December 11-13, February 26-28, and May 14-16.

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

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

### **MIDWEEK TANACH CLASS**

*David Henkin*

**4:15-5:45 p.m., Mondays**

*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 in translation. There will be one theme, announced on the first day of class, that the group will follow through the Tanach. The class begins on September 14 and will continue weekly except for Jewish holidays and school vacations. The exact meeting schedule will be set with the students and teacher.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

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**F**or information on all programs listed below with the exception of Confirmation contact Erica Zilbermann at the CJLL 839-2900, ext. 234, [erica@jfed.org](mailto:erica@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.

### **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 Julie Emden, 415 751-6983 ext. 125, [jemden@bjesf.org](mailto:jemden@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. Beth El's class will be taught Sunday mornings at Midrasha in Berkeley and Beth Abraham's will be taught Tuesday evenings at Midrasha in Oakland.

### **ABRAHAM'S VISION**

Open to 10- 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 is found at [www.abrahamsvision.org](http://www.abrahamsvision.org). There is an additional \$200 fee for this course to pay for the many field trips, extra food and other outside activities.

## FEE SCHEDULE 2009-2010

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LATE FEE: In an effort to eliminate first day confusion, there will be a \$25 late fee assessed to any family whose registration materials and first payment have not arrived at the Midrasha office by August 31, 2009.

### **Members Affiliated with Midrasha-Sponsoring Synagogues:**

- Sunday morning or midweek Tanach tuition **\$745**
- Unsubsidized cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$920**
- Subsidized Cost of Etgar/Kesher Retreats **\$660**

### **Unaffiliated Families:**

- Sunday morning or midweek Tanach/Talmud tuition **\$1020**
- 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**
- Gesharim (8th grade) fee, required **\$200**
- Rites of Passage, if attending this retreat **\$200**
- Abraham's Vision, if enrolling in this class **\$200**

**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](mailto:desmid@midrasha.org) or 510-843-4667, 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

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**M**idrasha 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 \$1480 per year to educate each student and our tuition is \$745. As you can see in the fee structure above, this amount is heavily subsidized by Federation grants and subsidies (\$168/student), synagogues (\$275/student) and our fundraising efforts (\$292/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 \$745 for affiliated students and \$1020 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.
- Etgar and Keshet retreat 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 December day trip 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*)

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- Financial concerns should never be a reason to not attend Midrasha or participate in the retreat programs. Financial aid is available. Our annual fundraising 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

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### REACHING US

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The Midrasha office, as well as our Sunday morning program, is 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](mailto:diane@midrasha.org) and for financial questions, [desmid@midrasha.org](mailto: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

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Check out our website at [www.Midrasha.org](http://www.Midrasha.org). Second semester courses will be posted in December.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

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### REGISTRATION

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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 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, Keshet, Gesharim and Rites of Passage programs.

### PARENT HELP

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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

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Midrasha publishes a list of students who are available to do various jobs such as baby-sitting, tutoring, party help, yard, computer, or office 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 that section on the registration form. Copies of the job bank are given to anyone requesting them. Our job bank has become very popular, particularly among parents looking for babysitters. It pays to sign up.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

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Midrasha seeks to accommodate a diverse student body. If your student has either physical, emotional 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 the Director of Special Educational Services at the Jewish Community Federation, 839-2900.

### APPLYING TO COLLEGE AND FOR JOBS

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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.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

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### CLASS PASSES AND VISITOR PASSES

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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 a student does not like the class they have chosen, they should go to the office to discuss changing it. All visitors to Midrasha must stop in the office for a visitor pass.

### SIGNING OUT

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

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

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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

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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

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

1. The 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.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (*Cont'd*)

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### GENERAL BETH EL PARKING AND TRAFFIC RULES (*Cont'd*)

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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

### 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 the Beth El Executive Director at 510-848-3988, Ext. 212.

## SCHOOL STRUCTURE

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### BREAK AND BREAKFAST

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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.

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## SCHOOL STRUCTURE (*Cont'd*)

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### ATTENDANCE

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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

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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 AIDS Research Alliance, East Bay SPCA, Friends of Israel's Environment, Heifer Project International, Jewish Community Federation & Foundation College Scholarship Fund, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay, Life Straws c/o California Roots and Shoots, Shanti AIDS Support Services, The S.F. Bay Area Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Water is Life International, Y.E.A.H. Youth Emergency Assistance Hostel Berkeley.

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

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The CJLL is the educational department of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay. CJLL operates the Etgar, Keshet, Hadracha, Gesharim, and Rites of Passage programs, as well as any other programs open to all teens in the East Bay Jewish community.

## ISRAEL

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### SUMMER ISRAEL TRIPS

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Each year many of our students, at the end of their tenth or eleventh grade year, travel to Israel with our community trip, "Let's 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. Tomer Zur, director of the Let's Go Israel! trip, will be at Midrasha on December 6 to talk to 10th and 11th graders and their parents about the community trip. He can be reached via email at [tomer@jfed.org](mailto:tomer@jfed.org) or at 839-2900 ext. 255.

## ISRAEL (*Cont'd*)

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### SHALHEVET

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Course: January-May 2010

Journey: March 2010

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 2009. 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@hcnc.org](mailto:mblum@hcnc.org), and Julie Emden, [jemden@bjesf.org](mailto:jemden@bjesf.org). As with all Midrasha programs, financial aid is available.

### POST HIGH SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

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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

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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 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

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### PARENT/STUDENT BRUNCH

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On November 1 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 EDUCATION (*Cont'd*)

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### PARENT WORKSHOPS

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On December 6, 9th grade parents will join their teens for a workshop on “Healthy Relationships,” facilitated by Shalom Bayit.

On December 6 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 January 31, 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 21 we will be having a workshop on “Etgar and Gesharim for Parents,” introducing the retreat programs to parents of 8th graders and any other interested parents.

## MIDRASHA PROJECTS AND SOCIAL ACTION

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### MONTHLY HOMELESS DINNERS

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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 Zach Piser (701-2619, piserfam@comcast.net), Ariel Karwat (289-3731, arielkarwat@yahoo.com), Ziva Sholin (717-9482, zsholin@yahoo.com), Sara Meltzer (725-5548, bookwormsrm@yahoo.com), Sam Strimling (652-9034, sstrimling@yahoo.com) or Susan Sholin (845-4977, szasholin@yahoo.com [parent volunteer]).

### SANDWICHES AT BREAK

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

### ADOPT-A-FAMILY

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This year Midrasha will begin a program to adopt one or more needy families through Shalom Bayit and/or Jewish Family and Children’s Service. This will be organized by Midrasha student Abby Wurtele and our Midrasha community will provide the families with needed items.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO FULFILL COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

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Whether it’s cooking at a shelter, tutoring reading or providing holiday gifts for the needy, Midrasha provides various ways to fulfill community service obli-

## MIDRASHA PROJECTS AND SOCIAL ACTION (*Cont'd*)

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gations 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**

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Midrasha families have the opportunity to volunteer with JCL- The Jewish Coalition For Literacy. JCL tutoring emphasizes reading aloud, comprehension and developing a mentoring relationship with the student. 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](http://www.jclread.org) or contact Helene Tinkler, [helene@jfed.org](mailto:helene@jfed.org), 839-2900 ext. 272.

### **PURIM AT MIDRASHA**

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In an effort to further bond the Midrasha community, we organize a swap of mishloach 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

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### **ANNUAL APPEAL**

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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**

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Each year at our annual Parent/Student Study Brunch we hold a Silent Auction. This year's event is November 1. 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 SEUDAH**

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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

## FUNDRAISING (*Cont'd*)

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great entertainment will take place on March 14 and will be held at Congregation Netivot Shalom. Treat yourself to an enjoyable evening out and support Midrasha as well.

### **THE REBECCA FEILER MEMORIAL MIDRASHA DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

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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.

### **WE NOW TAKE CARS**

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Midrasha would be happy to accept your used cars in exchange for a tax deduction. Please call the Midrasha office if you have a car we could have.

### **GRANTS**

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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**

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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 Devra Aarons, Yossi Fendel, Sacha Kopin, Muni Schweig, Shoshana Uribe, Abbey Herman and David Neufeld.

## MIDRASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**M**idrasha is governed by a Board of Directors which is comprised of representatives from our partner synagogues, our faculty, our student body and the community. Questions about the board should be directed to Yossi Fendel, Board Chair, joefendel@hotmail.com. As of press time our 2009-2010 board of directors was:

**YOSSI FENDEL**, Chair, is a Midrasha alumnus, class of 1991 and for 12 years served on the faculty. He represents congregation Netivot Shalom.

**JEFF FELSON** is the parent of a daughter at Midrasha and represents Congregation Beth Jacob.

**RACHEL GOLDSTONE** is the parent of two daughters at Midrasha and represents Congregation Beth Abraham.

**RIVKA GREENBERG** is the parent of three daughters who have graduated from Midrasha.

**LILY HALEM** is a former member of the Midrasha faculty.

**ROBIN KELLER** is the parent of one daughter who attends Midrasha and another who graduated. She represents Congregation Netivot Shalom.

**ANNA MARTIN**, a Midrasha alumna from the class of 2000, is the faculty representative to the board of directors.

**LISA NELSON** is the parent of two sons who are current Midrasha students. She represents Congregation Beth El.

**CAROLYN PINES** is the parent of two daughters at Midrasha. She represents Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

**BONNIE RODITTI** is the parent of a son at Midrasha and she represents Congregation Beth El.

**BARRIE ROKEACH** is the parent of one son who graduated from Midrasha, one son who is a former student and two daughters who look forward to attending in the future. He represents Congregation Beth El.

**JAN SCHMUCKLER** is the parent of a son and a daughter, who are Midrasha graduates.

## MIDRASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (*Cont'd*)

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**ELLEN SCHNUR** is the parent of a daughter who is a Midrasha graduate and a son who is a current student. She represents Congregation Beth El.

**BEN SHEMUEL**, Secretary, is the parent of a son who is a Midrasha graduate.

**STACEY SHULMAN** is the parent of a daughter who is a Midrasha graduate and another who is a current student. She represents Congregation Beth El.

**MARANNE SMITH** is the parent of a daughter who is at Midrasha. She represents Congregation Netivot Shalom.

**VICKI SOMMER** is the parent of a son who is a Midrasha graduate and a daughter who is a current student. She represents Congregation Netivot Shalom.

**HOWARD ZANGWILL**, Treasurer, is the parent of two daughters who are Midrasha graduates. He represents Temple Beth Abraham.

## MIDRASHA FACULTY

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**DEVRA C. AARONS** begins her sixth 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 begins her third year as director of Contra Costa mMidrasha. Devra is a 2007 Shofar Fellow. In her spare time she also practices yoga and pilates, writes and is an avid bike commuter.

**RONI ALPERIN** begins his second year at Midrasha. He 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 Ttherapy at California Institute Of Integral Studies.

**ERICA CROWELL ALTOBELLI** begins her twentieth 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. She teaches behavioral science at Santa Rosa Junior College.

**DAVID HENKIN** begins his twenty-second 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.

## MIDRASHA FACULTY (*Cont'd*)

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**NOEMI HOLLANDER**, a Midrasha alumna, begins her second year teaching at Midrasha. She holds a degree in comparative literature from Barnard College and has spent her time since then in religious education and publishing. She is the 2009 staff recipient of the U.C. Berkeley Chancellor's Award in Public Service for her work developing early parenting resources in the Bay Area.

**SACHA J. KOPIN** begins her twelfth year teaching at Midrasha in Berkeley and her seventeenth 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, is an MTEI fellow, and was staff on the 2008 Shalhevet trip to Poland and Israel.

**ANNA MARTIN**, a Midrasha alumna, begins her second year at Midrasha in Berkeley and her third teaching in the Midrasha system. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Barnard College and a teaching credential from San Jose State University. She is an instructional coach at a middle school in San Jose and has staffed the community Let's Go Israel! trip.

**GREG NEWMARK** begins his fifth 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 fifth 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 ninth 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** begins his second year teaching at Midrasha in Berkeley. He 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.

## MIDRASHA FACULTY (*Cont'd*)

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**MAIA WOLINS**, a Midrasha alumna, begins her first year teaching at Midrasha. She is earning her B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, where she is also a dancer and co-chief editor of Cal's multilingual literary journal. She is a graduate of the Kohn Internship and the Shalhevet program, and has worked as a substitute at Midrasha for two years.

**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 twelfth year at Midrasha and is the parent of four Midrasha graduates.

**DIANE BERNBAUM** begins her twenty-ninth 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

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### **MIDRASHA IN BERKELEY**

**843-4667**

1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Director: Diane Bernbaum

Fax: 843-4642

Email: [diane@midrasha.org](mailto:diane@midrasha.org)

Website: [www.midrasha.org](http://www.midrasha.org)

### **BAY AREA MIDRASHA IN OAKLAND**

**501-6692**

C/o Temple Sinai, Post Office Box 13315 #408

Oakland, CA 94661

Director: Kendra Lubalin

Email: [bayareamidrasha@gmail.com](mailto:bayareamidrasha@gmail.com)

Website: [http://www.oaklandsinai.org/lifelong\\_learning/midrasha.php](http://www.oaklandsinai.org/lifelong_learning/midrasha.php)

### **MIDRASHA IN CONTRA COSTA**

**925-944-4701**

74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Director: Devra C. Aarons

Email: [office@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:office@ccmidrasha.com)

Website: <http://www.ccmidrasha.com>

### **MIDRASHA IN TRI-VALLEY/ TRI-CITIES**

**925-931-1055**

3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Director: Day Schildkret

Email: [director.tvtcmidrasha@gmail.com](mailto:director.tvtcmidrasha@gmail.com)

## MIDRASHA DIRECTORY (*Cont'd*)

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“ You will find classes that will  
answer your questions & classes  
that will question your answers.”

*Paul Epstein*