



Middle School Registration Form

Fall Trimester 5772

Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Grade: _____
 E-mail address: _____

This registration form is for our middle school classes. We will be operating on a trimester system, with new classes being offered every 10 weeks. Trimesters will have different start and end dates for Tuesdays than for Thursdays due to the dates of holidays/school breaks. Students will have a blend of required and elective courses. In each box, please indicate whether this class is your 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice. All efforts will be made to honor your first request, but some adjustments may need to be made to accommodate class sizes. Course descriptions follow the tables below. Also, check out the “About the Teachers” section to learn more about our wonderful faculty!

Religious School (Tuesdays)			
First Hour	<u>Exploring T'fillot Through Art</u> with Elizabeth Fagin Choice: 1 2 3	<u>Early Arrivals: The Jewish American Experience – Late 1800's-early 1900's</u> with Josh Scafe Choice: 1 2 3	<u>Israel Through Film: A Look at Israeli Culture Through Cinematic Productions</u> with Andy Paroff Choice: 1 2 3
Second Hour	<u>When Bad Things Happen to Good People</u> with Elizabeth Fagin Choice: 1 2 3	<u>Wherever You Go, There's Always Someone Jewish: A Look at Remote Jewish Communities in the Diaspora</u> with Josh Scafe Choice: 1 2 3	<u>Hot Topics on the Screen: Jewish Ethics Through Films and Television Shows</u> with Andy Paroff Choice: 1 2 3

Prozdor (Thursdays)			
First Hour (Based on Grade Level)	6th Grade <u>Trope</u> with Carol Benedick Automatic assignment	7th Grade: <u>“My Mother’s Story”</u> : Understanding the Holocaust Through the Eyes of <u>One Survivor</u> with Sandy Kibort Automatic assignment	8th Grade <u>Eighth Grade Seminar</u> with Rachel Donnelly Automatic assignment
Second Hour (Mixed Grades)	<u>Living Midrash Rabbah</u> with Josh Scafe Choice: 1 2 3	<u>Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition</u> with Sandy Kibort Choice: 1 2 3	<u>The Jewish Rainbow: A Look at Different Streams of Judaism</u> with Rachel Donnelly Choice: 1 2 3

Course Descriptions

Religious School Classes (Tuesdays)

First Hour Classes:

Exploring T'fillot through Art (Elizabeth Fagin) - We will study the concepts, history, and kavana of three important prayers from our liturgy and then express what we have learned through the art medium of choice. We will be using these prayers: Unetaneh Tokef, the Kaddish, and the Shema. This class will give students the opportunity to explore and express the relevancy of these prayers to their own lives.

Israel through Film: A Look at Israeli Culture through Cinematic Productions (Andy Paroff) - In this class, students will study and analyze the portrayal of Israel in a variety of films. Ranging from Hollywood pictures to Israeli-created films and from classic to contemporary films, a wide variety of movies will be screened in order to incorporate multiple points of view as a means of discussion. Students will converse, analyze, and even create their own ideas for a film about Israel. We will also spend time exploring the historical context in which these films take place to help students have a stronger understanding of Israeli history and culture.

Early Arrivals: The Jewish American Experience – Late 1800s-early 1900s (Josh Scafe) - The Period between the U.S. Civil War and the Great Depression was a tumultuous time for this country. However, despite the domestic upheaval many Jewish immigrants sought the freedom and prosperity that the U.S. promised. We will explore one of the more overlooked portions of Jewish immigration to this country, examining a number of famous individuals and groups that helped define the Jewish American Experience.

Second Hour Classes:

When Bad Things Happen to Good People (Elizabeth Fagin) - Bad things happen every day. Sometimes the scale of destruction is so huge we can hardly take it in. Sometimes the pain is private, and affects only a small group of people. What does Judaism have to teach us about how to understand suffering? If God is merciful and just – why do bad things happen to good people? Using Jewish text from ancient sages to modern times we will explore this timeless issue.

Hot Topics on the Screen: Jewish Ethics through Films and Television Shows (Andy Paroff) - From Glee to Modern Family and Avatar to Mean Girls, Hollywood and the TV industry have created ways to explore a variety of ethical dilemmas that we are facing in the modern world. We will use these ethical dilemmas as a handbook for discussion of Jewish issues and ethics. In this class, we will look at fun clips of pop culture and discuss them in the context of biblical writings and the words of the Rabbis. In no time, student will be seeing Judaism everywhere, adding a strong foundation of understanding to today's entertainment-intensive world.

Wherever You Go, There's Always Someone Jewish: A Look at Remote Jewish Communities in the Diaspora (Josh Scafe) - Diaspora in Greek means scattering, and it is certainly true as the popular Jewish children songs says, "wherever you go, there's always someone Jewish." In this class we will explore some of the more remote communities of Jews around the world and how they have

adapted. We will look at the places these diverse communities exist, how they may have gotten there and the challenges they face as small communities very much separated from larger Jewish society. I hope you will join me as we travel around the world (figuratively of course) to meet some of our unique brothers and sisters.

Prozdor Classes (Thursdays)

First Hour Classes - First hour classes are automatically assigned by grade level.

Sixth Grade

Learning Trope (Carol Benedick) – Get a jump start on learning Torah and Haftorah trope! In this class, you will crack the trope code as you learn how to identify trope by name, sing the trope, and apply the trope to Hebrew text. This will be a fast moving class with lots of fun and games. This class will give you the tools you need to read Torah for your B’nai Mitzvah and beyond.

Seventh Grade

“My Mother’s Story”: **Understanding the Holocaust Through the Eyes of One Survivor** (Sandy Kibort) - Hinda Danziger Kibort was the embodiment of living history and someone who, though she experienced immeasurable suffering, never failed to find the good in people. She had the uncanny ability to make people understand that her journey through the Shoah made her stronger. This course uses an incredible resource from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas called “I was Given Life Twice.” The curriculum will help students get a clearer picture of life in the Holocaust, by delving into the story of one survivor. Class is taught by Hinda’s daughter (and CBS member) Sandy Kibort.

Eighth Grade

Eighth Grade Seminar (Rachel Donnelly) - In this class, you will have an opportunity to explore Judaism, modern issues, and much more! You will help design the curriculum from the very beginning, getting the chance to learn what you really want to know about. Have some questions you've always wanted answered? Bring them to class on the first day and we'll look into exploring them even further!

Second Hour Classes

The Jewish Rainbow: A Look at Different Streams of Judaism (Rachel Donnelly) - This class will explore the myriad of answers to the question "What makes you a Jew?" We will look at a spectrum of forms of Judaism including orthodox, renewal, meditative, etc. Common themes of Judaism will be highlighted as we explore differences and similarities between the movements.

Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition (Sandy Kibort) – How did we go from the Golden Age of Spain to Jews being persecuted at the hands of the Roman Catholic Church? In this class, we will explore the history of this troubling time period. We will get a better understanding of converso Jews and why they made the choices they did. We will look at the responsa that followed their choices, their art, and what happened after their expulsion.

Living Midrash Rabbah (Josh Scafe) - Midrash Rabbah are widely studied, but loosely cohesive commentaries on the biblical text. They are not uniform and do not adhere to any particular structure. Yet, they provide some of the early foundations of Jewish wisdom and exegetical tradition, which continues today. In this class we will read some selections each class from the text of various Midrash Rabbah and see if we can come up with our own contemporary living commentaries through discussion and other expressive means.

About Our Teachers:

Carol Benedick is a long-time member of Beth Shalom and is also the shul's Director of Programming and Adult Education. She is married to Joe Orzech and they have two teenage daughters, Shira and Amital. The whole family leyns, and you can often hear someone yelling across the house, "Hey mom, how do you do a *pazer*?" Carol is eager to teach this year's 6th graders "how to do a *pazer*" and much more.

Rachel Donnelly is thrilled to part of the staff at Congregation Beth Shalom! Over the past 12 years, Rachel has had the opportunity to guide Jewish youth at a variety of organizations, including Kadima and Kol HaNeshamah in Seattle, Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Francisco, and Camp Ramah in California. She currently teaches Kindergarten and First Grade at Giddens School in Seattle's Central District. Rachel holds a Masters Degree in Teaching and Washington State Teaching Certification. In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading, writing and exploring the many treasures of the Pacific Northwest.

Elizabeth Fagin has been a Jewish Educator for over 20 years, teaching all age groups from 2 years old to adult. She served as the Director of Education at Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue for 10 years. She has a BS in Early Childhood Education and also completed the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School 2 year course for Jewish Educators. She loves to work with children of all ages.

Sandy Kibort has been teaching Prozdor at Congregation Beth Shalom for four years. As a child of Holocaust survivors, Sandy is committed to helping students understand not only that time period, but the thriving Jewish communities that existed before WWII. She is also committed to helping reclaim Jewish culture, and seeing everything, even comics, through a Jewish lens. She is also the proud Imah of two wonderful girls.

Andy Paroff is a junior studying Cinema Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Washington. He recently returned from a semester at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he studied Hebrew and Israeli culture. He was an avid Kadimanik and USYer and a Teacher's Aide for five years at Temple Beth Shalom in Spokane, WA. He was a senior counselor at Camp Solomon Schechter for several years. He would describe Jewish Youth Education among his highest interests.

Josh Scafe is excited to be working at Congregation Beth Shalom as a teacher in our Religious School. He has served as an advisor for NFTY, the Reform movement youth group in Michigan and was previously the Kadima advisor at CBS. He is currently a graduate student in Jewish Studies through the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, specializing in Jewish thought and mysticism.