



MAKOM

the place for teens to BE*

Congregation* **Beth El** TEEN PROGRAM

What is MAKOM?

MAKOM is Beth El's new post-b'nai mitzvah education program for teens in 8th - 12th grade

What's new about MAKOM?

MAKOM has a choose-your-own-adventure format, with courses in 8-week trimester blocks

What does "MAKOM" mean??

"MAKOM" is Hebrew for 'place'
- Beth El's place for teens to BE*!

Course Descriptions 2018-19

Pirkei Avot teaches us that the world rests on three things: *Torah*, *avodah* and *gemilut chasadim*. The **MAKOM** curriculum is organized around these three pillars.

- **Torah:** Jewish law and values as a guide to our actions
- **Avodah:** Worship and our relationship with God
- **Gemilut Chasadim:** Acts of kindness and our responsibilities as members of a community



Fall SeSSion: (Wednesdays, October 3 - December 12)

Core Classes: Torah **8th and 9th Grade**

Mah La'asot? (What to do?)

Explore moral dilemmas with guidance from the Bible and Rabbinic sources. Focus on the relationships you forge and hold throughout life, starting with yourself, and continuing with your family, peers, local and American Jewish community, Israel, the world, and *Klal Yisrael* (all of Israel).

10th, 11th and 12th Grade

Rabbis What did the Rabbis, ancient and modern, have to say about many of the modern issues you face today, such as body piercing, tattooing, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ issues, disability rights, elder care, abortion, birth control etc.? Get exposure to the wisdom of the classical rabbinic texts, including the *Mishnah*, *Talmud* and *Midrash*. You will study in *hevruta*, partnered learning.

Electives (Choose one) **8th - 12th Grade**

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict - Approaching from All Sides

Hear from a variety of speakers representing different points of view on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participate in guided breakout sessions where you can dissect the different opinions and form your own conclusions.

Torah and the Twilight Zone

Explore the moral and Jewish lessons in episodes of Rod Serling's original anthology show, *The Twilight Zone*: If you had a superpower, what would keep you from doing evil? If you were immortal, how would you use your life? Who judges what is beautiful and what is physically acceptable? Is there a difference between justice and revenge?

Winter SeSSion: (Wednesdays, January 2 - February 20)

Core Classes: Avodah **8th and 9th Grade** **Conversations about God**

Explore general belief in God or lack thereof, characterizations of God and God's nature, God and why evil exists in the world, concrete ways to act "Godly" and to bring God into our lives. We will cover topics such as God vs. Science, God in the Holocaust, etc.

10th, 11th and 12th Grade **Ties that Bind: What do Jews and Muslims have in common?**

Being mutual descendants of Abraham, we have a shared history at our core. There are also surprising similarities in our languages, faiths and cultural practices. We will explore the many things we have in common, using experiential activities, service projects, and interfaith dialogue.

Electives (Choose one)

8th - 12th Grade

STAR: Sex, Torah And Relationships

The central theme of this class is that we are all created in the image of God. We refer to a Star of David model throughout the sessions. Each point of the star represents Jewish values: respect, self-respect, acceptance, resisting peer pressure, commitment, and at the top, holiness. We will discuss sex and mental health in this context.

Jewish Poetry Slam This class will explore the basic concepts of slam poetry: how to take concepts and long-held beliefs, find synonyms and metaphors for those ideas, and then shape those words and terms into full-fledged poems. We will write on issues such as, identity, faith, peoplehood, relationships, and community. We aim to perform our material for students in the JLC's Geshur program.

Spring SeSSion: (Wednesdays, February 27 - May 8)

Core Classes: Gemilut Chasdim

8th and 9th Grade

Being a Member of the Tribe: Exploring Your Jewish Identity

This class will use the great ideas of Judaism to help students form a personal Jewish philosophy and develop an appreciation for our tradition's ability to raise important questions and search for relevant answers. We will also research roles of Jews in American society, understand the importance of their role in the continuation of the Jewish people and culture, and develop a personal connection to the State of Israel.

10th, 11th and 12th Grade

Like Moses: Jewish Leadership Training: Developing leadership

skills This course will identify leadership qualities of secular and Jewish leaders and identify your own leadership style. You will learn how to engage in active listening, respond in depth to challenging debate and develop a respect for differences. We will create an awareness for responsibility to the community and

will approach complicated historic, philosophical and theological texts with critical analysis.

Electives (Choose one)

8th - 12th Grade

#JewishResistance

Jews have been resisting oppression since ancient times and have been at the forefront of many important social movements. This class will explore texts and leaders from the Bible, Talmud and beyond on the ways Jews have resisted religious coercion, sexism, bigotry, and oppression of workers and immigrants. Students will learn about what it means to be part of #Jewish-Resistance today.

Through a Jewish Lens This class will use photography to connect intellectually and emotionally to our Jewish values and traditions. Along the way, you will develop skills in visual literacy, text study, and photography. The course will culminate in the creation and display of your own work in a gallery show open to the congregation.

MAKOM BACHUTZ (Outside Place)

Field Trip Mini-Course on Jewish Arts & Culture

Once per trimester we will have a field trip to a theater production, concert, dance and other cultural events with a Jewish perspective. Exact schedule and pricing will be announced in September.

Each **MAKOM** session includes one core class, one elective class and dinner. **MAKOM BACHUTZ** (Outside Place) is an additional once-per-trimester field trip mini-course to expose teens to the world of Jewish arts. Classes are taught by Rabbi Olitzky, Rabbi Marder, Morah Rivka Nelson and special guest instructors. Choose one trimester or choose them all! Let your availability and interest be your guide.

MAKOM: facts at a glance

SESSIONS	WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
FALL SESSION: (Wednesdays) October 3, 10, 17, 24 November 14, 28; December 5, 12	6:00-6:30 Dinner & Schmooze
WINTER SESSION: (Wednesdays) January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 February 6, 13, 20	6:30-7:10 Core Class
SPRING SESSION: (Wednesdays) February 27; March 6, 13, 27 April 3, 10; May 1, 8	7:10-7:20 <i>Hafsakah</i> (break)
	7:20-8:00 Elective Class

MAKOM BACHUTZ Field Trip Mini-Sessions (One Sunday/trimester)
Dates TBD

FEES AND REGISTRATION:

Each trimester: \$325 (members); \$350 (nonmembers)
Field trip mini-course pricing TBD

REGISTER ONLINE at bethelnj.org/makom/form.
Registration deadline **9/26/18**

MAKOM is a program of Congregation Beth El's Teen Life Committee, which provides opportunities for teens to deepen their connections to Judaism and the community. The TLC aims to foster a strong sense of Jewish identity among teens and further engagement in their Jewish life beyond b'nai mitzvah and high school. The TLC creates diverse points of entry for teens with varied interests, including social (Kadima & USY), educational, community service, social justice opportunities, and arts-related programming.



QUESTIONS?
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