



J Line South Hills

JEWISH VALUES. JEWISH FRIENDSHIPS. JEWISH FUN.

Program Guide 2018-2019





DEAR TEEN,

As always, we have been busy creating innovative, fresh, and collaborative ideas to bring Judaism to teens in the best way we know how...with flair! We are proud to unroll an updated J Line South Hills curriculum this Fall, bringing it to new and boundless heights. J Line South Hills will now take place on Wednesday evenings with brand new core learning experiences and electives crafted with you in mind. We are also excited to announce two brand new offerings to J Line South Hills lineup. We will now offer beginner level Modern Hebrew classes on Monday evenings as well as our Change Agents experience for 11th- and 12th-grade students that will focus on developing leadership skills to prepare upperclassmen for the next stages of their life.



J Line South Hills gives you the flexibility to participate in meaningful Jewish experiences. Do you play a sport, participate in your school's musical or perform in the orchestra? No problem! You have the option to sign up for the full year or by each trimester that won't conflict with your other extracurricular activities.

Throughout their experience, you will be encouraged to ask and be challenged by these questions:

- Who am I?
- With whom and what am I connected?
- To whom and for what am I responsible in this world?
- How can I bring about change in this world?

Each grade will explore one of these core questions as a part of their core learning experience in J Line South Hills.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

B'shalom,
Rabbi Jessica Locketz
Temple Emanuel

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum
Beth El Congregation

Chris Herman
J-Line/JCC

ON A JOURNEY TO EXPLORE ...

8TH GRADE—"WHO AM I"

Our 8th grade experience will focus on a post *B'nai Mitzvah* Jewish existence. Students will explore their connection to Judaism and the Jewish people moving forward after having been Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Where does their Jewish self fit into the larger picture of who they are? What aspects of Judaism do they connect with the most and what aspect of Judaism do they struggle with the most? The core experiences will focus on addressing these essential questions and other related questions about identity and being Jewish.

9TH GRADE—"TO WHAT AM I CONNECTED"

Our 9th grade experience will focus on how students feel connected to different people and groups of people. As students enter high school and now have various different experiences and networks to which they can connect, we will explore the tension between being Jewish in a predominantly secular society.

10TH GRADE—"TO WHOM AND WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE"

Our 10th grade experience will focus on how students can live Jewish values every day through their actions and interactions with others by understanding their sense of responsibility to all aspects of the world in which we live.

11TH & 12TH GRADE—"HOW CAN I BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN THE WORLD"

Our 11th & 12th grade learning experience will be centered on creating an impact in the South Hills community. It will be focused on developing students as strong teen leaders with skills that directly connect to making a difference. Upper classman will meet once a month for two hours during the week. The experience will be facilitated by staff members of Hillel JUC, an organization that engages Jewish college students.

**Not a member of any of these institutions? Not a problem!
J Line South Hills is open to every teen.**

FALL TRIMESTER @ TEMPLE EMANUEL

Electives

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM

WEEKS 1-4: SEPTEMBER 12, 26, OCTOBER 3, 10

March for Our Lives & Gun Violence in School

March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students of all backgrounds and identities across the country. Students are taking an active role to stop the epidemic of mass shootings. Explore how Jewish values are intertwined with the March for Our Lives Movement.

Barak Naveh

Reconstructionist , Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Oh My!

Why is the modern Jewish landscape so confusing? Why are there so many different types of Jews? What does it all mean? Students will explore the different denominations and types of Jews living in our community today, how we are similar, and where we differ.

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Improv Workshop

During this four week improv class, we will focus on bringing out the best improviser in you. We will specifically focus on communication skills, quick thinking, working as a team and much more.

Facilitated by a local improv troupe

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM

WEEKS 5-8: OCTOBER 17, 24, NOVEMBER 7, 14

Off to the Races

Exploring the everyday issues at the center of the Midterm elections and why they matter.

Rabbi Jessica Locketz

What Did You Really MEME?

Memes are everywhere, ready to instantly make you laugh! Let's explore the power and meaning of memes in today's digital culture, touching on the topics of stereotypes, identity, and culture.

Chris Herman

They Made a Difference

Learn stories of famous Jewish heroes, both old and new. Learn how their courageous acts of bravery helped saved Jewish people or pave the way for history.

Barak Naveh

Wednesday evening schedule

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6:15 – 6:45 pm | Weekly Open Dinner |
| 6:45 – 7:30 pm | Hour 1, Electives |
| 7:30 – 7:45 pm | Break/Snack |
| 7:45 – 8:30 pm | Hour 2, Core Learning Experiences |

Core Learning Experiences

HOUR 2: 7:45-8:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 12-NOVEMBER 14

#MyJewishSnapShot: Grade 8

We live in a world filled with images. Whether you are instagramming, snapping, or streaming Netflix, thousands of images are being presented to you every day, each telling a unique story. Now it is YOUR turn to do the storytelling! You will be on the other side of the lens. Get creative and craft new images that tell the story of Jewish values and customs. Get ready to tell your story through images!

Rabbi Jessica Locketz

Better Together: Grade 9

We live busy lives and belong to many different groups or communities, but what does it actually mean to be a part of a community? How do we choose the communities that we are a part of and how do our communities influence who we are?

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Mister Roger's Neighborhood: Grade 10

The Torah commands us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Because humanity was created in the image of G-d, *b'tzelem Elohim*, we show disrespect for G-d when we show disrespect to our fellow human beings. Hence, we are obligated to treat everyone with respect. Judaism teaches us to celebrate each individual's uniqueness and affirm their divine worth. But how do we do this? In the age of social media and being socially pressure among our peers, how can we navigate the tension between being liked and doing what's right? Are they mutually exclusive?

Barak Naveh

Winter trimester @ Beth El

electives

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM
WEEKS 1-4: NOVEMBER 28, DECEMBER 12, 19
JANUARY 9

#MeToo & Vashti Too

You might call Vashti the first #MeToo survivor. She was banished by her husband, the Persian King Ahasuerus, for refusing his order to display herself wearing her crown in front of his male guests. What other women in our tradition were #MeToo survivors and what can their stories teach us?

Rabbi Jessica Locketz

The Untold Story of Hanukkah

We have all heard the tale of how the Maccabees defeated the Greeks and how enough oil for one night lasted eight nights. Most of us don't know the behind-the-scenes story of Hanukkah: a civil war among the Jews. How did this civil war play out and how did it shape our traditions?

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

The Art of Storytelling

You are invited to take a journey through the art of Jewish storytelling. On this journey, you will learn the art and skill of performative storytelling, exploring the ancient stories, personal narrative and techniques on discovering your own unique storytelling voice.

Barak Naveh

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM
WEEKS 5-8: JANUARY 23, 30, FEBRUARY 6, 13

Bible Raps

Do you have what it takes to be the next great rapper? You will be working through Torah called Mussar. You'll treat your spiritual traits like muscles to exercise to become better people. You'll explore the text and meanings and then write bars, drop a sick beat, and create a rap music video for the ages!

Matt Bar (Executive Director of Bible Raps)

Game Night

Games like Cards Against Humanity, Monopoly and The Game of Life have provided countless hours of hilarious entertainment. But what can we learn about power, privilege, and responsibility through playing these types of games?

Barak Naveh

COPE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

HOUR 2: 7:45-8:30 PM
NOVEMBER 28-FEBRUARY 13

Two Jews, Three Opinions: Being Unified vs. Being Uniform: Grade 8

One pious Jew was stranded on a desert island and built two synagogues. When rescued, the crew members asked, "There was only you and your limited resources, so why two places to worship?" The Jew answered, "One was for me to pray in. The other one I wouldn't be caught dead in." Jews come in many different shapes, colors, and sizes. Where do we agree and where do we disagree and why?

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Cool Jews: The Ultimate Guide for Every Member of the Tribe: Grade 9

Celebrate every aspect of who you are. Decode contemporary Judaism and its cultural and creative expression. Dive into everything from identity, rituals, clothing and cuisine, to holidays, spirituality, diversity, and language. Jew got questions? Jew got answers!

Rabbi Jessica Locketz

You + Me = Us: Grade 10

Responsibility is one of the most important values to cultivate in one's soul. To take responsibility means to cultivate the "ability" for response to an "other." This responsibility to another is born in the moment where no one else is present to assist. As Hillel said (Avot 2:6) *"uveemkom sh'ain anashim hishtadail lihiyot ish"*: in a place where there aren't people of moral courage taking responsibility, one needs to step up. What is our moral responsibility to one another and how can we actively step up to make the world a better place?

Barak Naveh

SPRING TRIMESTER @ TEMPLE EMANUEL

electives

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM

WEEKS 1-4: FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 6, 13

Jewish on Campus Workshop

A recent study found that there has been a rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel rhetoric on college campuses. This workshop will probe issues that have challenged Jewish students at colleges and universities around the country and better prepare you for what to expect and how to address these challenges.

Barak Naveh

Jewish Geography

Who are my people and where did they come from? You'll explore genealogy, immigration, and lineage among the Jewish People. What's the difference between Ashkenazi and Sephardic? You'll even have the opportunity to take your own ancestry genealogy test through 23andme.com. (An additional fee of \$25 per student)

Rabbi Jessica Locketz

A Taste of Jerusalem: A Jewish & Muslim Cooking Class

Jews and Muslims share many values and customs; chief among them is food. The sharing of bread has been a way to break down barriers throughout the millennia. How can food be the unifying force in our much needed relationship? Discover how in this cooking class, making foods shared in our traditions.

Melinda Freed

HOUR 1: 6:45-7:30 PM

WEEKS 5-8: MARCH 27, APRIL 3, 10, 17

Israeli Graffiti Workshop

How is graffiti done? How is it used to make a statement? How has it become a part of Israeli society? In this workshop, you will explore why graffiti is so popular in Israel and how artists use it to make a statement. You'll also make your own graffiti mural!

Rabbi Jessica Locketz & Graffiti Artist

Devils, Angels and Spirits

Do Jews believe in vampires? Do we have good angels who protect us? Learn the answers to these and other issues of Jewish spirituality and Kabbalah.

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Can You Give Me a Hand: Addressing Mental Health

Approximately 1 in 5 youth worldwide will experience a mental illness before they turn 25. Many will experience significant and substantial life challenges that may require help. This makes adolescence a critical time for mental health promotion, prevention, early identification, and intervention. In four sessions, you will learn how to optimize and maintain good mental health, understand different types of mental disorders, decrease stigma, and understand how to support others in times of mental health crisis.

Barak Naveh

CORE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

HOUR 2: 7:45-8:30 PM

FEBRUARY 20-APRIL 17

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: Grade 8

There is so much to do as a teen: social media, friends, sleep, school, family...how can we be expected to fit all of this in? "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" is a system designed to help you do it all. Uncover the habits with film, food, experience, and conversation.

Rabbi Ron Symons

Wherever You Go There's Always Someone Jewish: Grade 9

Encounters with other Jews and discoveries of Jewish connections are intriguing because they remind us that we are part of something bigger, that our family extends beyond our family tree to include a community we feel connected to but do not know personally. The bond created between Jews by shared history and experience is called peoplehood. Transform yourself into a Jew from another part of the world to discover how we are all connected.

Barak Naveh

Be The Change: Grade 10

We are living in a world faced with huge social challenges. More than ever teens are becoming involved in this issues and raising their voice to make a difference. In this experience, students will learn how to speak up for what they believe in and take an active role in making a difference. Students will have the opportunity to attend the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), where they will have the opportunity to impact our country as they share their views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill.

Rabbi Jessica Locketz & Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

MORE J LINE SOUTH HILLS OPPORTUNITIES

Modern Hebrew

Hebrew has been the “official” language of the Jewish People for thousands of years. If you want to feel a part of that people, and get what they are about, there is no more direct way than to speak the language of our people. J Line South Hills is offering a weekly beginner Modern Hebrew class taught by Karen Morris.

Monday evenings, 6:30-8 pm \$360/student

October 8-December 17
January 7, January 28
February 4, 11, 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 15, 29

Change Agents: Grades 11-12

This 9-month leadership workshop will focus on developing students as strong teen leaders in the community by building and enhancing leadership skills that can directly connect to issues students encounter on a regular basis. Throughout the course of the workshop, they will become better- equipped to grapple with present-day issues and become agents of change in the communities they are a part of. The experience will be facilitated by Robyn Markowitz Lawler and Alex Zissman, staff members of Hillel Jewish University Center, an organization that engages Jewish students at Pitt and CMU.

Meets monthly on Tuesday evenings 6-8 pm

October 9
November 6
December 4
January 8
February 5
March 5
April 2
May 7

new!

2018-2019 Joint Confirmation Class for Grade 10

Join Rabbis Alex Greenbaum and Jessica Locketz for a year of Jewish identity affirming, community building and connecting, talking with friends about anything under the sun and of course—eating!

Confirmation classes this year will be in addition to attending Wednesday evening J-Line classes (for at least one full semester). 10th-grade students interested in Confirmation will meet with the rabbis on Sunday afternoons (with an occasional Monday evening) throughout the year. Participation in J-Serve (the local Mitzvah Day for teens) and the class trip to the Religious Action Center L'taken Seminar Weekend is also strongly encouraged.

Dates (lunch or dinner included)

Sundays, 12:15-1:45 pm

October 21
November 18
December 16
January 27
February 3
April 28
May 5

Additional dates

Friday-Monday, March 1-4: L'Taken Trip
Monday, March 18: 6-7:30 pm
Sunday, April 7: J-Serve
Sunday, May 19: Confirmation Service

Registration

Students should register for confirmation classes as part of their J-Line registration. There will be an additional fee for Confirmation charged by the synagogues. Confirmation is available for members of Beth El Congregation or Temple Emanuel of South Hills.

For more information, contact
Rabbi Greenbaum, ragreenbaum@gmail.com or
Rabbi Locketz, jlocketz@templemanuelpgh.org.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH TEENS

J-Serve: Grades 6-12 Sunday, April 7, 2019

J-Serve Pittsburgh is a teen-led day of Jewish community service, attended last year by 340 Jewish teens from all over the greater Pittsburgh area. J-Serve takes place in more than 90 cities around the world annually. We had the largest J-Serve turnout last year, but Atlanta is on our tails! Teens can volunteer at more than 15 service locations.

For more information about joining the Steering Committee, or to join the mailing list, please contact Hannah Kalson at hkalson@jccpgh.org.

J Serve Pittsburgh is a partnership of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Repair the World: Pittsburgh, BBYO, and the Volunteer Center of the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh

L'Taken Social Justice Seminar: Grades 9-12 March 1-4, 2019

In partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), you will have the opportunity to impact our country as you share your views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill. Our program is designed to both expose you to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform advocacy around these issues. Throughout the weekend, we will give you the knowledge and tools to write an effective, persuasive and passionate speech on a topic of your choice to present when you visit the offices of your Senators and Representatives on the Monday of the program.

Diller Teen Fellows: Grades 10-11

Diller Teen Fellows program is an immersive leadership program inviting a select group of Jewish teens from 6 continents and 32 communities to step up, lead their communities, and repair the world. The depth of the program, global engagement, and a focus on experiential learning create an enduring impact on participants and their families, building leaders with the power to change the world.

For more information, contact Stephanie Aaronson, saaronson@jccpgh.org or 412-697-3233

J LINE CALENDER

Fall trimesterSeptember 12, 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14

Winter Trimester.....November 28, December 12, 19
January 9, 23, 30, February 6, 13

Spring trimesterFebruary 20, March 6, 13, 27,
April 3, 10, 17

L'Taken trip to Washington DC.....March 1-4

J Serve.....April 7

REGISTRATION INFO

All registration and payment information and processes can be found at:

JCCPGH.org/jlinesh

Tuition

- Sign up for all three trimesters including dinner and snacks for \$525.
- 10th-grade Confirmation requires a full year commitment.
- Sign up for each trimester separately including dinner and snacks for \$200 each

For questions about registration:
Ariel DiFelice, Administrative Services Associate
adifelice@jccpgh.org
412-697-3518.

For questions about curriculum:
Chris Herman, Teen Division Director
cherman@jccpgh.org or
412-339-5395



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What TEENS are saying about J Line

"Fun!"



"J Line is a place where Jewish
teens really come together"



"I love it!"



"It's a great experience"



"The teachers listen to
what we're interested
in"



"We discuss real issues"



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J Line at the JCC



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH