



Elul 5777

WJC Teens: Hebrew High 2017-2018!

Shalom WJC Teens and Parents!

It is with great pleasure I announce the beginning of a new Hebrew High year here at WJC. I am honored to be on board here and ready to hit the ground running on what is sure to be an exciting new year. But first, a bit about myself.

I hail all the way from Minnesota, practically another world compared to here in New York. I moved to Minnesota from Chicago, my hometown, in 2014 for school, where I got a BS in Finance from the University of Minnesota. On campus I was extremely active in Hillel, specifically engaging new students and planning Shabbat and holiday programs. Over the past nine years I have been involved in USY in some capacities whether it be participant, advisor, staff, or director. Part of that journey included a gap year, The Nativ College Leadership Program in Israel, where I had the chance to explore my own Jewish identity in more depth in Israel. Nativ and USY helped shape me into the person I am today, and I look forward to sharing those experiences with you. Feel free to reach out for anything.

I am thrilled to announce our theme of the year, Respect, or in Hebrew, *Kavod*. We will be exploring this topic throughout our Hebrew High classes and electives this year. We'll take the time to learn what it means to respect ourselves, our peers, our communities, and more. Kavod will be shown in many different lights throughout our array of experiences offered.

Hebrew High will consist of a three week rotation (Week Aleph, Bet, and Gimel) of different classes and events, led by WJC Clergy, staff, and WJC teens themselves. A combination of educational and social programming together will help us explore our Jewish identities and the ever-changing world around us.

Weekly email blasts every Monday afternoon regarding the WJC Teen Community will be sent out, with information about what is going on each week at Hebrew High. Different opportunities will be presented each week to allow students to pick and choose their preferred classes and events.

I hope you will join us for this coming year! If you have any questions, please contact me, Adam Bender, Director of Teen Engagement at adam@wjcenter.org or (914)-698-2960, ext 155. To register for Hebrew High, please contact Eileen Fortuna at schoolsecy@wjcenter.org.

I cannot wait to meet everyone shortly!

B'Shalom,

**Adam Bender
Director of Teen Engagement**



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**2017-2018 Hebrew High Classes/Events, Tuesday evening, 6:00-8:00pm:
(Dinner is provided each week from 6:00-6:30 pm)**

All dates tentative to change

Week Aleph (9/19, 10/17, 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 2/6, 3/13, 4/24):

Class-Period 1 (Pick one, 6:30-7:15pm):

- Current Events with Rabbi Segelman
Rabbi Segelman will facilitate conversations amongst the teens about compelling current events. In today's changing world, get the chance to speak with Rabbi Segelman about the most pressing issues of today. Teens will have the opportunity to introduce topics that are important to them, and Rabbi Segelman will relate the conversation to Jewish values.
- Pop Culture and Sports with Rabbi Adir
How can we evaluate pop culture and sports from a Jewish perspective? What do we see on TV and in movies challenges our world-view and our values? Which famous athletes and musicians do we admire, and why? Come explore your favorite memes and more with Rabbi Adir!

Electives-Period 2 (Pick one, 7:15-8:00pm):

- Israeli Cooking
Learn the lay of The Land, while cooking some of the food that has made it great over time. You'll be surprised to see, it's not all falafel and shawarma that make Israeli cuisine all that it is today.
- Jewish Broadway: From Tradition to Evan Hanson
Ever wonder why so many Jew's are interested in theater? Learn all about the history of Jews and theater, from the original Purim spiel, to Fiddler on the Roof, to Ben Platt in Dear Evan Hanson. It's sure to be a blast. Break a leg!

Only for current WJC USY Board Members (6:30-8:00)

- WJC USY Leadership with Adam Bender
Join new Director of Teen Engagement, Adam Bender, as we plan and implement this upcoming year of programming for the WJC USY Community. Play a vital role in deciding, planning, implementing, and executing programming and events for the entire WJC USY community. This class will play an important role in reintroducing the values of USY into our very own WJC Community. While working alongside Adam, there will be leadership lessons touching on topics such as leading a group, executing a program/event, and more.



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Week Bet (9/26, 10/24, 11/21, 12/12, 1/16, 2/13, 3/20, 5/1):

Full Class (8-9th grade, 6:30-8:00pm)

- Shevet Achim-Brothers Together (8/9th grade boys)
This program, started by Moving Traditions, uses gender as a lens to explore Jewish identity. Teen boys who participate in *Shevet Achim* groups tell us that they enjoy spending time in a “guy space,” where they can explore what masculinity and being a Jewish man means to them. The boys report that the experience offers them a more honest, relevant, and cool way to participate in the Jewish community. Each month’s meeting will have a different theme regarding being a Jewish man. The group of 8th and 9th grade boys will be led by new Director of Teen Engagement, Adam Bender.
- Rosh Chodesh-Head of the Month (8/9th grade girls)
This program, started by Moving Traditions, uses Jewish teachings and practices to give Jewish girls a place to consider the impact of gender on their daily lives, have fun, and be “real” with their peers. Through discussion, arts & crafts, ritual, games, and drama, the girls and their leaders draw on Jewish values with a gendered lens to explore the issues the girls care about most, such as body image, friendship, relationships, family, competition, and stress. Each month’s meeting will have a different theme regarding being a Jewish woman. This class is open to 8th and 9th grade girls.

Period 1 (10-12th grade, 6:30-7:15pm)

- Create Your Own Service Project
Ever wonder how great service organizations are started? Welcome to our very own Social Action Think-tank! Here, you’ll have the chance be inspired and create your very own creative service project and even have the ability to implement it in our community. Through these sessions, you will pick a cause that YOU are passionate about, research the cause, and get creative about YOU and your peers can help better the world around you.

Period 2 (10-12th grade, 7:15-8:00pm)

- Israel: The Great Debate!
For such a small country, Israel is constantly one of the most contested and talked about stories in the news. Come learn about the modern issues facing Israel, and voice your opinions. We’ll learn to hear from the other sides point of view, and debate the facts respectfully with one another. Through engaging discussion and finding the facts, we will debate some of the most heated issues facing Israel today. Let the great Israel debate begin.



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Week Gimel (10/3, 10/31, 11/28, 1/23, 3/6, 4/10, 5/8, 5/15):

- WJC USY Lounge Night
Be a part of something special as we bring USY back to WJC! Join the entire WJC Teen community for a night of fun! These monthly Lounge Nights are programs that touch on different aspects of the greater USY Community (Israel, Social Action/Tikun Olam, Religion Education, and Socialization). Each program is planned and implemented by one of your own WJC TLC members! Bring your friends, we can't wait to see you at this new Hebrew High initiative.

Special Hebrew High Holiday Programming:

Holidays are a major part of our Jewish lifestyles and identities. For that reason, during holiday times we'll take a step back from our regularly scheduled programming to celebrate different Jewish holidays as an entire Teen Community! These programs will take place during the regular hours of Hebrew High.

These weeks, Hebrew High will participate in these "whole school" programs. Look below for special dates:

- September 12: First day of Hebrew High: Let's Get It Started!
- October 10: Sukkah Hop!
- December 19: Hebrew High Chanukah Party
- January 30: Tu B'shevat Seder
- February 27: Purim Palooza!
- March 27: The Great Westchester Search for Chametz
- April 17: Israel Bash!
- May 22: Shavuot-Teach Me Something!
- May 29: Last day of Hebrew High Celebration