

Each **MAKOM** session includes one core class, one elective class and dinner. Classes are taught by Rabbi Olitzky, Rabbi Marder, Morah Rivka Nelson, Youth Program Director Molly Gimbel, 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) September 18, 25; October 2, 16, 23, 30; November 13, 20 | 6:00-6:30 Dinner & Schmooze |
| WINTER SESSION: (Wednesdays) December 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12 | 6:30-7:10 Core Class |
| | 7:10-7:20 <i>Hafsakah</i> (break) |
| SPRING SESSION: (Wednesdays) February 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29 | 7:20-8:00 Elective Class |

FEES AND REGISTRATION:
Each trimester: \$325 (members); \$350 (nonmembers)

REGISTER ONLINE at <https://portal.bethelnj.org/form/makom5780>

MAKOM is part of Congregation Beth El's commitment to provide opportunities for teens to deepen their connections to Judaism and the community. Through varied points of entry, teens at Beth El can foster a strong sense of Jewish identity through social youth groups (Kadima and USY), educational programming, community service, and social justice opportunities.



QUESTIONS?
makom@bethelnj.org

Congregation **Beth El** TEEN PROGRAM

Golda and Michael Och Campus • 222 Irvington Ave. • South Orange, NJ 07079 • bethelnj.org

2019-20 SCHEDULE



Congregation **Beth El** TEEN PROGRAM

What is **MAKOM**?

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

What's different 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 2019-20

Pirkei Avot teaches "Turn it and turn it again for everything is in it." This year's **MAKOM** curriculum is digging deep into the study of:

- **Limud:** *Chevrotah*-style text study to explore meaning from *Torah*
- **Midrash:** Modern and rabbinic stories that give us a deeper meaning and understanding of text
- **Middot:** Jewish values based on the text of our tradition and how it impacts our lives



Fall SeSSion: (Wednesdays, September 18 - November 20)

Core Classes:

8th and 9th Grade

Life's Big Questions (Limud)

We will use text and dramatic expressions to explore questions such as what is God, what is the role of *Torah* in our lives and how has the Ten Commandments connected Jews to the Jewish community and God.

10th, 11th and 12th Grade

The Prophets, Then and Now

(Limud) The Hebrew prophets, both men and women, were Divinely inspired, challenging the Jewish people with messages that are much more comfortable to ignore. We will explore such questions as: Who are today's prophets, how do we know someone is speaking on behalf of God, and how do we act or interpret a prophetic message?

Electives (Choose one)

8th - 12th Grade

Movies and Midrash

We will watch selections from some popular movies that raise profound matters in Jewish thought, text or practice, such as the meaning of truth in *The Truman Show*, cleverness and simplicity in *Forrest Gump* and speaking God's word in *The King's Speech*.

Shark Tank Beth El Style

Are you a fan of TV's *Shark Tank*? Do you feel very strongly about making a difference in our community? In this elective you will research a project suggested by Beth El's Caring Committee and Social Action Committee. You will then pitch your project to Beth El leadership and help fund and run it.

the better. At the end of the course students will identify something they can impact, and formulate an action plan.

10th, 11th and 12th Grade

Traditionally Radical Talmud (Limud)

Chevrotah style *Talmud* study with a radical twist! We will enter millennia-old conversations as we learn the history of disruptive innovation within Judaism. Studying *Talmud* and *Midrash* will help us understand and navigate moments of disruptive change in our own lives.

Electives (Choose one)

8th - 12th Grade

Storahtelling - Acting Out the Bible

Storahtelling is a unique method integrating Judaism's oldest form of sacred storytelling with contemporary stagecraft. We will learn the fundamentals of Storahtelling and develop our own script to be presented during a Shabbat Service.

Girls in Trouble We will be using art, stories and other media to deepen our understanding of Biblical women, exploring the hidden places where their lives overlap with our own. Students will consider the relevance to their own lives and create their own interpretations.

Spring SeSSion: (Wednesdays, February 26 - April 29)

Core Classes:

8th and 9th Grade

Becoming My Best Self (Middot)

Mussar is a Jewish spiritual practice that gives guidance on how to live a meaningful and ethical life. It is based on the idea that by cultivating inner virtues, we improve ourselves. We will explore essential questions such as: How can I live my life closer to my spiritual potential? How can I avoid making the same mistakes? What can I learn from those who lived before me?

10th, 11th and 12th Grade

The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism (Middot)

We will learn about the rise of modern Anti-Semitism in the United States and the world. This course will increase understanding and awareness of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias, provide opportunities to explore and strengthen Jewish identity, counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and anti-Israel myths with accurate information and provide skills to respond effectively and appropriately to the variety of ways anti-Semitism manifests itself.

Electives (Choose one)

8th - 12th Grade

The Big Picture from the Small Screen

This course will examine how Jews and Jewishness are portrayed on the "small screen". We will investigate the history of that portrayal from TV shows in black and white from the 1950s and 1960s right up through the present television dramas. We will grapple with questions such as are Jewish rituals presented as representing something universal? Is the world at large shown as being bettered by participating in or at least witnessing these rites and rituals? How have Jews been portrayed on TV? And do we see ourselves in that portrayal?

Mikdash: The Jewish Sanctuary Movement

Mikdash comes from the same root as holy. *Mikdash* reminds us of the holy work we do when we act as allies to all immigrants, standing against xenophobia and hate, and for the preservation of families and communities. In this elective you will learn about the history of the sanctuary movement, what makes this a particularly Jewish value, what can we do to help defend and offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants, how can you advocate for immigrant defense and how can you organize your community and school.

Winter SeSSion: (Wednesdays, December 11 - February 12)

Core Classes:

8th and 9th Grade

Choosing to Participate (Midrash)

Ancient and modern Jews faced challenges that they could never solve completely, or tackle by themselves, but they acted with courage, thus embodying the text from *Pirkei Avot* 2:21 "It's not upon you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." We will look at the stories of Jews and non-Jews throughout history who chose to participate in changing society for