



Congregation Agudat Achim Hebrew High School

## Course Registration

First Semester

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

All students must take their core courses which are 1 hour in length and run for the full year.

### CORE CURRICULUM: (Full year) Rotations on a yearly basis

- 8/9 Core: Jewish History Arab/Israel Conflicts (First year rotation)
- 8/9 Core: Jewish Identity (Second year rotation)
  - Topic: Jewish History, Medieval- Modern Jewish Times, K'lal Israel, Holocaust, Zionism, Image of God
- 10<sup>th</sup> Confirmation: God - The BIG questions. Is there a God? Do Jews have to believe in God? If God is just, why is there so much suffering in the world? Why does belief in God cause so much turmoil? Using the book *"God: Jewish Choices for Struggling with the Ultimate"*, we will look at a different question each week. Through discussion, activities, and looking at passages from the Torah and the Siddur, we will compare our beliefs to the rabbinical students who speak in the book. We will also delve into the variety of understandings of God in Jewish tradition.
- 11/12 Core: Comparative Religion (First year rotation)
  - Topic: Comparative Religion, Anti-Semitism, missionaries, cults,
- 11/12 Core: Jewish Ethics (Second year rotation)
  - Topic: Arab/Israel Conflicts, Jewish Law, Moral Dilemmas, Inter-Faith and Intra Faith, Social Action

The year will be divided into four elective sessions or semesters. See the student schedule for the time of the electives. Courses may change depending on student interest and requests. Electives may vary from year to year. Sign up for electives using this Course Registration Form. **Not all electives will necessarily be offered in each session.**

**Quarter 1 Begins 09/12/10** (Choose 1 by circling the title of the course you want to take)

**Elective #1 - Prayers Your Hebrew School Teacher Never Taught You:** Stephen Schmidt

**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is to introduce students to a number of prayers which are frequently said or led at Agudat Achim, but not covered in the K-7 religious school curriculum. Students will learn the basic ideas and concepts behind the prayers and their words, and the ability to recite the prayers in services. With out-of-class practice (optional) students will be able to lead the prayers, and students who wish will have the opportunity to do

so. At the end of class we will hold a Friday night service and dinner for the students that will allow them to do most of the prayers in the class; arrangements will be made for students to perform prayers said at other times (e.g. Hallel) separately.

**Elective # 2 - Jewish Improv:** Jackie Rowen

**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is to expose the students to the art of improvisational comedy as it pertains to the Jewish Community. Students will be exposed to the great Jewish comedians of the past (ie. the Borscht Belt) and present. Students will have the opportunity to put together their own Improv Show for the congregation.

**Elective # 3 – Beginning Madrichim:** Jack Mintzer

**Course Objectives:** Students will learn leadership skills, classroom/group management and communication skills, and will form an amazing social bond. Students will be paired with a mentor teacher and participate as a teacher's aide in our in Religious School classes on Sunday mornings. 6, 12, or 24 week sessions available.

**Elective # 4 – Tikkun Olam/Social Action/ Community Service Class:** Randy Fox

**Course Objectives:** Individualized study. Students will make repairing the world (Tikkun Olam) an integral part of their life as an expression of their Jewish culture. The students will meet with the mentor once at the start of the semester and once at the end of their project. The mentor will direct the student through a course of study or an appropriate project and keep in contact with the mentor with progress reports delivered by email. Community service hours will be acknowledged. 6 or 12 week sessions available.

**Quarter 2 Begins 11/07/10** (Choose 1 by circling the title of the course you want to take)

**Elective #1 - Jewish Cooking Class:** Rise' Routenberg

**Course Objectives:** The aim of this class is to introduce Jewish Cooking through the discussion of the diversity of Jewish food origins and preparation of traditional foods that are associated with Jewish holidays, Shabbats, lifecycle events and everyday cuisine. Updated variations of traditional fare will also be presented. Class content will include the exploration of the general guidelines for keeping kosher. Each class, which will feature a hands-on workshop where basic kitchen skills will be taught, will be held in Congregation Agudat Achim's kosher kitchen.

**Elective # 2 - Jewish Ceramics:** Jackie Rowen

**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is for the students to explore the ceramic arts of various Jewish artists and create their own pieces of Judaic Art (ie, mezuzahs, menorahs, dreidels, hamsa) **Field trip:** The students will visit The Pottery Place in Styvesant Plaza to paint a ceramic mezuzah.

**Elective # 3 – Beginning Madrichim:** Jack Mintzer

**Course Objectives:** Students will learn leadership skills, classroom/group management and communication skills, and will form an amazing social bond. Students will be paired with a mentor teacher and participate as a teacher's aide in our Religious School classes on Sunday mornings. 6, 12, or 24 week sessions available.

**Elective # 4 – Tikkun Olam/Social Action/ Community Service Class:** Randy Fox

**Course Objectives:** Individualized study. Students will make repairing the world (Tikkun Olam) an integral part of their life as an expression of their Jewish culture. The students will meet with the mentor once at the start of the semester and once at the end of their project. The mentor will direct the student through a course of study or an appropriate project and keep in contact with the mentor with progress reports delivered by email. Community service hours will be acknowledged. 6 or 12 week sessions available.

**Contact information:**

**Education and Program Director:**

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