

Congregation Beth El and Temple
Beth Sholom High School Program

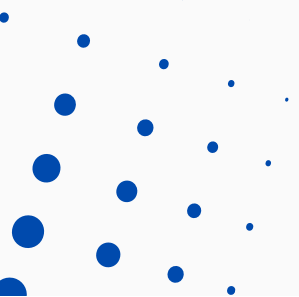


KESHER HANDBOOK 2023-24/5784



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THE KESHER PROGRAM

Kesher means connection. *Kesher* is where teens **CONNECT** to our Jewish community, to Jewish learning, to Israel and with one another. *Kesher* is a joint high school program which brings together teens from Congregation Beth El and Temple Beth Sholom in grades 7th through 10th for weekly learning and communal growth. We seek to build connections amongst the students, faculty and the many facets of the South Jersey Jewish community. With a curriculum rooted in the foundation of Jewish tradition and culture, it is taught by our clergy and experienced faculty members. Here, Jewish teens will connect and immerse themselves in an environment that promotes a social, experiential and educational atmosphere. Let's not forget, it's so much fun! We are now heading into our third year of *Kesher* and we are so excited for what is instore for our teens.

Kesher sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings from **6:30PM-8:30PM** starting at Temple Beth Sholom and transferring to Congregation Beth El in the second half of the year.

In addition to *Kesher*, each Synagogue will have their own "Home Shul" day which allows the teens to continuously engage with their home Synagogue.

**Temple Beth Sholom - 7th-10th Grades HaMakom Sunday
Mornings 11:15am-1:00PM**

**Congregation Beth El - 7th and 10th graders will meet at Beth El
on Thursday Evenings.**



A KESHER EVENING

TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:30-8:30

Core Classes - 6:30-7:10

Tuesday evenings will begin with core classes experienced with each student's home Synagogue. These classes are taught by faculty from the respective shuls and range in a variety of grade-based curricular topics.

Keshet Rotations - 7:35-8:15

After dinner, TBS and Beth El students will be placed in class cohorts together (based on friend requests) and each week will learn about a different Jewish topic taught by our talented faculty. Students will rotate through each class over the duration of the semester.

Here are some of the interesting rotation topics we will cover in the first semester:

- Jewish Arts and Culture
- Jewish Law and Ethics
- Jewish Cooking
- Talmud
- Tikkun Olam: Healing the World
- Ask the Rabbi
- Jewish Diversity
- Exploring Israel
- Jewish Music
- Modern Hebrew

Dinner - 7:10-7:30

After core classes, Keshet students will gather together for a short dinner where they will enjoy a yummy meal, hang out with their friends and play fun games.

CORE CLASSES

Temple Beth Sholom Core Classes

7th Grade: Humash: Making the Torah Text Come Alive Teacher: John Imhof

7th Grade: Humash: Making the Torah Text Come Alive Teacher: Matt Kanoff

8th Grade: Jewish Ethics in the 21st Century Teacher: Alex Lapushner

9th Grade: Hatred, History and Healing: Exploring the Holocaust and Modern Anti-Semitism Teacher: Alex Weinberg

10th Grade: Confirmation: G-d, Israel and Our Community Teacher: Rabbi Bryan Wexler

Congregation Beth El Core Classes

7th Grade: Moving Traditions - Kulanu Teacher: Jeremy Cohen/Stacy Heyman

8th Grade: History of the Holocaust Teacher: Jason Landau

9th grade: American Jewish History (first semester) Teacher: Jacob Boyd

9th Grade: Heroes of Israel (second Semester) Teacher: Mira Aumiller

10th Grade: Confirmation Seminar - Tough Questions Jews Ask Teacher: Rabbi Nogah Marshall



DINNER & BREAK TIME

Kesher dinner and break time is a great opportunity for teens to bond with their friends, enjoy delicious treats and engage in fun activities and challenges. Each week, we will offer a light dinner with dessert that will vary week to week. All food served at Kesher will be certified Kosher and nut sensitive. We also offer food options that are gluten free, vegetarian and dairy free (when applicable). The extended break time will also give Kesher teens time to get involved with some more structured activities and programs planned and facilitated by our Kesher Teen Engagement Coordinator, John Imhof.

A handful of time per year we will have special programming where a full, catered dinner will be served. These occasions will be times such as Teen Summits, Holiday celebrations and more. Some examples of dinner options are: Pizza, Baked Ziti, Mac and Cheese, Kosher Chinese food, etc. These will be followed by some delicious desserts like and Ice Cream Sundae bar, water ice, candies, donuts, cookies, brownies and so much more!

Our dinner and snack times are planned out and facilitated by our Kesher program coordinator, Brooke Miron.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AND HESED PROGRAMS

A core component of Keshet is our holiday celebrations and Hesed service programs. Throughout the year we will celebrate Jewish holidays together as one Keshet community through special, fun evenings where students will participate in various engaging programs, games and learning which are related to the holiday.

Each holiday celebration will also have a Hesed component where students will participate in community service/social action projects to give back to the community both local and abroad.

Some examples of Hesed projects completed in the past are:

- Hanukkah Gift Bags and Messages for the Jewish Community of Uganda
- Passover Ceramic Seder plate decoration and vases for the residents of the Weinberg Commons
- Collecting Gifts/Money for children in need on Hanukkah at our Keshet gift auction
- Making Mishloah Manot packages at Purim for the residents of Lions Gate.
- and more.

2023-2024 Program Dates

October 3rd - Sukkot Celebration
December 12th - Hanukkah Celebration
March 19th - Purim Celebration
April 16th - Passover Celebration



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMITS

We are thrilled to be continuing our High School Summits in the 2023-2024 Keshet year. These Summits are a cornerstone of our program, leading to its inception after we hosted several successful virtual summits in 2020-2021.

These summits are unique opportunities for our teens to meet and learn from influential figures in the Jewish world such as: published authors, professional sports photographers, Disney animators and more.

These professionals bring their personal journeys and Jewish experiences to our teens and share with them how their Jewish identities influenced their successes and achievements in life.

Some examples of Teen Summit speakers we've had in the past are:

- Josh Weiss, author of *Beat the Devils*
- Rabbi Yael Buechler, founder of *Midrash Manicures*
- Elissa Sagoskin, Israel National Flag Football Team
- Jori Epstein, Sports reporter for USA TODAY
- Saul Blinkoff, Disney and Dreamworks Animator
- and more!

2023-2024 Teen Summit Dates

October 24th - Teen Summit at TBS

January 23rd - Teen Summit at Kol Ami

March 12th - Teen Summit at Beth El



FACULTY AND CLERGY



RABBI BRYAN WEXLER

Associate Rabbi - Temple Beth Sholom
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RABBI NOGAH MARSHALL

Educational Director - Congregation Beth El
nmarshall@bethelsnj.org



JARED KAUFMAN

Keshet High School Director - Temple Beth Sholom
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BROOKE MIRON

Keshet Program Coordinator - Congregation Beth El
brookeamiron@gmail.com



JOHN IMHOF

Keshet Teen Engagement Coordinator - Temple Beth Sholom
johni@tbsonline.org

Our amazing team of Educators include:

Ellen Fine: Congregation Beth El

Stacy Heyman: Congregation Beth El

Jason Landau: Congregation Beth El

Jeremy Cohen: Congregation Beth El

Jacob Boyd: Congregation Beth El

Mira Aumiller: Congregation Beth El

Tameika Minor: Congregation Beth El

Alex Weinberg: Temple Beth Sholom, Director of Congregational Learning

Alex Lapushner: Temple Beth Sholom

Gilah Lewis Sietz: Temple Beth Sholom

Matt Kanoff: Temple Beth Sholom

EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOR

To help foster a positive educational climate in our high school program and to create an environment in which everyone feels safe and welcome, we have developed a ***Brit Halihut*** - a behavior contract that affords each student the opportunity to accept responsibility for their own behavior. Everyone in the school community must play a role in contributing to an effective educational environment.

The STUDENT will

- Accept responsibility for their own actions.
- Attend school regularly or make arrangements to complete any projects.
- Arrive on time for class and activities.
- Treat fellow students, teachers and staff with respect.
- Respect property of and both buildings.
- Only bring appropriate materials to school.
- Abide by our school's dress code and policies.
- Accept responsibility for completing all classroom requirements.

The PARENT will

- Assure the student's regular attendance in school.
- Inform the school if extended absences occur and help to create a make-up plan
- Exemplify an enthusiastic and supportive attitude toward the program and Jewish education.
- Discuss behavioral responsibilities and expectations with the student.
- Be responsible for the Student's behavior, including paying for damaged books, property, etc

The TEACHER will

- Promote a climate of mutual respect and dignity, hence strengthening each student's positive self-image.
- Discuss with students the behavioral guidelines, including individual interpretations and expectations, teacher to student, as well as student to teacher.
- Attend to minor behavioral problems in the classroom, always maintaining the student's dignity.
- Follow the guidelines set forth for inappropriate behavior.
- Keep parents, Rabbi Marshall, Rabbi Wexler and Jared Kaufman apprised of student's progress.

It is our number one priority that every student feels "at home" and safe while in the building. Our program is dedicated to providing a nurturing learning environment where Temple Beth Sholom and Beth El teens can explore their Jewish identities, make new friends, and grow into their best selves. Bullying and disrespect will not be tolerated and any issues will be communicated with parents immediately.

Let's keep the lines of communication open between us.

Please don't hesitate to call should any problem arise. This is important for both parents and students.



Behavior Issues

Please note that all behavior issues, both inside and outside the classroom will be reported to our Keshet High School Director, Jared Kaufman, as well as the student's home shul rabbi (either Rabbi Marshall or Rabbi Wexler). Significant behavior issues will warrant a call home from either Rabbi Marshall or Rabbi Wexler. If behavior issues persist after multiple discussions and warnings, it is possible that the Keshet Leadership Team may decide that the student has lost his/her privilege to attend Keshet. If such a determination is made, the student will be invited to continue his/her Jewish education for the year by participating in an independent study with Rabbi Marshall, Rabbi Wexler, or another teacher.

Attendance Policy

- Regular and punctual attendance is required in all classes.
- If you know in advance that you will be missing a significant number of classes, please contact us.

Lateness

Every moment of class time is precious, and it is inconsiderate to the teacher and fellow students to interrupt a class already in progress. **Students are asked to please report to class on time.**

Dress Requirement

- Students entering the building must be clothed in a respectable and acceptable manner befitting a religious institution.
- **Kippot:** Students identifying as male are **required to wear Kippot at all times while in classes or Synagogue.**
- Each teacher is responsible for the teaching environment in their classroom. Therefore, an individual teacher may set additional rules.

Cell Phones

We understand our students' reluctance to part with their cell phones and we understand the concern for their safety. However, cell phones are extremely disruptive to the high school program. Therefore, all cell phones must be turned off and out of site while in class and during teen summits and holiday programs.

BRIT HALIHUT- BEHAVIOR CONTRACT 2023-2024

Please sign and return this form to Rabbi Wexler, Rabbi Marshall or Jared Kaufman.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Home Synagogue: _____

I (we) have read the student and parent handbook and discussed with my (our) child the DISCIPLINE, ATTENDANCE, DRESS CODE as well as other policies in the handbook.

My child understands these policies.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments:

SOCIAL EXPERIENCES AND YOUTH GROUP

This year we are excited to be expanding our program to include an additional branch of a Keshet Youth Group, which will provide teens with fun educational and social experiences. Several times throughout the year, we will bring together teens from Congregation Beth El and Temple Beth Shalom for field trips, day/night outings, special programs and more.

Some examples of joint social and educational programs from the past:

- Keshet Trip to NYC to visit the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, explore Times Square and see a Broadway show.
- Keshet Night Out to Dave and Buster's Philadelphia
- Keshet Trip to Washington DC to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Keshet Trip to Six Flags Great Adventure

For questions regarding social programming, please contact:
John Imhof, Keshet Teen Engagement Coordinator (johni@tbsonline.org)

or

Jennifer Fisher, Beth El Youth Director (jfisher@bethelsnj.org)

SOCIAL EXPERIENCES 2023-2024

October 15th - Eagles Tailgate Watch Party at Beth El

November 9th - Trip to New York City

December 2nd - Havdalah and Dave&Buster's Trip

January 7th - Keshet Community Event

February 10th - USY Prom Night for 11th and 12th Graders

March 3rd - Cosmic Bowling and Purim Costume Party

April 14th - Trip to Tree Top Adventure

June 2nd - Trip to Hershey Park



Connect with us!

Stay in touch and up to date with everything Keshar! Follow us on social media and keep in touch.



(856) 751-6663 (TBS)
(856) 675-1166 (Beth El)



@keshersnj



www.keshersnj.org



Rabbi Wexler - ravbryan@tbsonline.org
Rabbi Marshall - nmarshall@bethelsnj.org
Jared Kaufman - jaredk@tbsonline.org

Kesher Calendar 2023 - 2024 • 5784

September	September 12	September 19	September 26
	Kesher Kickoff	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes
	6:30 - 8:00 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS

October	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
	Kesher Sukkot Celebration	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	Teen Summit	NO CLASSES
	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30-8:30 TBS	

November	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	NO CLASSES	Kesher Classes
	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS		6:30-8:30 TBS

December	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
	Kesher Classes	Kesher Hanukkah Celebration	NO CLASSES	NO CLASSES
	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS		

January	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
	NO CLASSES	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	Teen Summit at Kol Ami	Kesher Classes at Beth El
		6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 TBS	6:30 - 8:30 Kol Ami	6:30-8:30 Beth El

February	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes
	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El

March	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
	Kesher Classes	Teen Summit at Beth El	Kesher Purim Celebration	Kesher Classes
	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El

April	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
	Kesher Classes	Kesher Classes	Kesher Passover Celebration	NO CLASSES	NO CLASSES
	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El	6:30 - 8:30 Beth El		

May	May 7
	Kesher End of Year Celebration
	6:30 - 8:00 Beth El

Schedule is subject to change

The Kesher calendar is available anytime at www.keshersnj.org

Regular Class Schedule
Full Dinner & Dessert

Special Program
Full Dinner & Dessert

NO CLASSES