

High School Program

A Program for Beth Meyer Teens

**Course Catalog
and Registration
2018-2019**

**Naomi & Ken Kramer Religious School
at Beth Meyer Synagogue
504 Newton Road
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-848-8111**



Beth Meyer Synagogue
Torah • Avodah • Gemilut Hasadim

General Information

- Open to all Jewish High School students* (grades 9 - 12).
- There are 4 quarters.
Each quarter meets once a week for 5 weeks.
- Classes are on Sundays
1st, 2nd, 4th Quarter:
Lunch available at noon
Classes 12:20 - 1:10, 1:10 - 2:00 pm.
3rd Quarter:
Dinner available at 5:45
Classes 6:20 - 7:10, 7:10 - 8:00 pm.
- Students are **EXPECTED TO ATTEND** all classes within a quarter.
- You may register for any or all quarters.
1st quarter registration is due by August 26.
There will be subsequent deadlines for the remaining quarters.
- Some classes have size limits - classes are filled on a "first-come-first-served" basis. If there is a class you want - best to get your registration in early!
- Cost is \$60 per quarter*, plus a one-time \$40 materials fee (*financial assistance is available - call the synagogue office for information*).

For more information
call Amy Ripps at the
Religious School office 919-848-8111

**There is a discount if you register for all four quarters by Aug 26. Also - teens who are not members of Beth Meyer are more than welcome for a slightly higher tuition fee.*

1st Quarter: AFTERNOONS, Sept 30 - Oct 28

Perek Alef*

Pirke Avot - The Ancient Jewish Twitter
Jewish Identity Through Art

Perek Bet

Coming to America: The Jewish Immigrant Experience
Jews and Sports - There's more to it than Sandy Koufax

2nd Quarter: AFTERNOONS, Nov 4 - Dec 9

(no class on Nov 25)

Perek Alef

Hadashot
Jewish Music

Perek Bet

Shal-Om: Alternative Jewish Spirituality
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

3rd Quarter: EVENINGS, Jan 6 - Feb 10

(No class on Jan 20; class on Feb 3 will be in the afternoon)

Perek Alef

Judaism in the Roman Empire
The Many Jewish Gods

Perek Bet

Jews, Technology and Rock
Major World Religions

4th Quarter: AFTERNOONS, Feb 24 - Mar 24

Perek Alef

Mussar for Teens: Jewish Values for Everyday Living
Judaism and Free Speech

Perek Bet

Shalom Y'All
The Torah is an Exceptionally Long Experimental Poem

*Perek is a class period

Need Community Service Hours?

Working as a *madrish* in the school does not qualify - but we have plenty of other opportunities.

- Volunteer to help with High Holiday childcare
- Volunteer to help with Shabbat childcare
- Volunteer to attend minyan on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings

All of these projects require some advance planning and registration - contact the school office if you're interested.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Marc Kasten

2nd Quarter, 1:10 - 12:20 pm

Human Sacrifice? In the Torah??? Yes - one of the most controversial stories in the Torah is the Binding of Isaac (Akeidat Yitzhak), in which God asks Abraham to perform human sacrifice on his own son. Over the past millennium, Jewish and non-Jewish artists struggled with portraying this scene. This quarter, we will explore several pieces of artwork and argue together about the artists' vision and whether they were right.

Coming To America: The Jewish American Immigrant Experience

Deborah Goldstein

1st Quarter, 1:10—2:00 pm

Jews have been in the United States before there WAS a United States. Not all of us came over during the great migration of the late 1880's-1920's. Using literature, film and first-hand accounts, we will look at who these immigrants were, where they came from, what they found when they arrived and how they changed America.

Hadashot (news)

Jonah Kaplan

2nd Quarter, 12:20—1:10 pm

No Fake News in this class! Join Jonah Kaplan, ABC11's Political & Investigative Reporter, for an intimate review and discussion of the week's major stories, and why they matter to the Jewish community.

Jewish Identity Through Art

Kelly Bloom

1st Quarter, 12:20 - 1:10 pm

How would you choose to represent your Jewish self? We will look at a variety of art from different periods from both Jewish and non-Jewish artists and discuss what those representations tell us about changes in the identity and perception of Jewish culture over time. Then it is time to get creative – how would you represent YOUR Jewish identity and what it means to you to be a Jew? We will take some time for exploration and planning and will be creating mixed media art projects as individuals or pairs.

Jewish Music

Rabbi Marc Kasten

2nd Quarter, 12:20 - 1:10 pm

Are you a Dan Nichols, Debbie Friedman, Klezmer, Yonina, or Carlebach fan? Have you ever heard of these people, these words? No matter- if you love music and Judaism, come to learn more about the world of Jewish music. We'll listen, sing and play - building our repertoire of Jewish music and exploring new sounds and genres.

Jews & Sports - There's more to it than Sandy Koufax

Hirsch Fishman

1st Quarter, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

Jewish sports history didn't begin or end with Sandy Koufax. Join us to learn about Jewish involvement in professional and Olympic sports, both here in American and Israel. We'll cover former and current players, managers, and broadcasters, and their impact on sports and the Jewish community. We'll also touch on the role of sports in Israeli culture.

Jews, Technology and Rock

Ira Planer

3rd Quarter, 7:10 - 8:00 pm

How does music impact your life and identify? Music and media are powerful vehicles for formal and informal Jewish education. In this class we will compare and contrast Jewish, Christian, and secular music while learning how Jewish music can be a part of expressing your Jewish identity.

Judaism and Free Speech

Allison Mitteer

4th Quarter, 12:20 - 1:10 pm

The very first amendment to the US Constitution made it illegal for Congress to pass any law prohibiting free expression. Where does the freedom of speech fall in our lives as American Jews (or Jewish Americans)? This class will explore the laws, beliefs, and debates surrounding everything from Talmudic views on trigger warnings and other modern free speech debates, to anti-Semitic leaders and celebrities, to Jewish comedy.

Judaism in the Roman Empire

Jim Doerfler

3rd Quarter, 6:20 - 7:10 pm

During the early Roman Empire, many Jews moved from the land of Israel in search of economic opportunity. In Rome, Jewish communities thrived. Yet political tensions in Judaea arose, leading to revolt, the destruction of the Second Temple and the beginnings of a new rabbinic tradition. We will discuss the Roman occupation, the rise of Jewish sectarianism, the siege of Jerusalem, the Bar Kokhba revolt, and the impact of the establishment of Christianity as Rome's official religion.

Major World Religions

Steve LaSala

3rd Quarter, 7:10 - 8:00 pm

The world's major religious traditions have many similarities, sometimes sharp differences, and often strong feelings about each other. We'll cover the basic history and theology of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism from a Jewish point of view. Come and explore - and ask your questions!

Mussar for Teens: Jewish Values for Everyday Living

Rabbi Jenny Solomon

4th Quarter, 12:20 - 1:10 pm

Did you know that brushing your teeth can be spiritual? What about how we talk to ourselves (on the inside)? And how we treat each other? This is a class for teen seekers who are curious about finding God and spirituality in everyday life. If you want to grow your soul through humility, honor, patience, and lovingkindness, this class is for you.

Pirke Avot: The Ancient Jewish Twitter

Rabbi Eric Solomon

1st Quarter, 12:20 - 1:31 pm

Come and learn about some of the greatest (and often shortest!) wisdom teachings from the ancient rabbis and how they might help you navigate your modern social network.

Shal-Om: Alternative Jewish Spirituality

Allison Mitteer

2nd Quarter, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

From yoga studios on every street to meditation 'sound baths', alternative spirituality has recently seen massive growth. Turns out - Judaism has had access to all these trendy practices for centuries. Learn about different routes to connect to our Jewish souls: spiritual memoir, *hitbodedut* (spontaneous prayer), niggunim, (chanting), ecstatic dance/embodied prayer, and gratitude rituals.

Shalom Y'All

Deborah Goldstein

4th Quarter, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

Historically, not all Jews in America were in the North. Many lived, worked and created thriving communities below the "Mason-Dixon Line." Some owned small shops or were itinerant peddlers; some were wealthy landowners and players within the political landscape. Who were these Southern Jews? Where did they come from and what influence did they have on their neighbors, the growing country and the larger Jewish American experience.

The Many Jewish Gods

Josh Orol

3rd Quarter, 6:20 - 7:10

Did you know that different parts of Jewish tradition record hundreds of names for God? Even the Hebrew word Elohim, a plural noun used as singular, implies a multiplicity to our understanding of God. Come to this class to consider the diverse ways our texts and traditions have described our one God, and what that may mean for your spirituality.

The Torah is an Exceptionally Long Experimental Poem

Josh Orol

4th Quarter, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

A piece of writing that doesn't follow conventional grammar, narrative rules, or logic, and implies its meaning through vivid images, complex structure, and hidden word play: the Torah, or a poem? In this class, we'll use creative writing as a lens for reading Torah text, allowing us to pull it apart, re-order lines and language, and get at some of the hidden meanings.

Kelly Bloom has a BFA in painting and a MA in art history from UNC-CH. She worked at Beth Meyer Preschool for ten years, primarily with the Pre-K students. Kelly has two high school aged daughters.

Jim Doerfler is currently the president of Beth Meyer and volunteers for a number of local interfaith, LGBT, anti-hunger and affordable housing organizations. His life experiences as a Catholic, Protestant, and then Jew give him a unique view of the world.

Hirsch Fishman is a professional website designer who has lived in Raleigh since 2012, arriving from Chicago and before that New York City. A history enthusiast and a fan of all professional and Olympic sports, he roots for the Yankees, (Carolina) Hurricanes, and Clemson Tigers. His earliest memories as a sports fan are of attending games of the minor-league Albany-Colonie Yankees and the Capital District Islanders. He still has not gotten over Game 7 of the 2001 World Series.

Deborah Goldstein is no stranger to Beth Meyer students. She has a MA in Education and has worked with children, from PreK through 12th grade, for over 25 years.

Jonah Kaplan is a day-school graduate and the son of two rabbis. He's also the Political & Investigative Reporter for ABC 11 Eyewitness News. He graduated with honors from Boston University's College of Communication and his work has appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN and MSNBC. When not working, you can find him playing ice hockey - or in shul with his wife, Grace, and their baby daughter, Rena.

Rabbi Marc Kasten began his career in Jewish education while growing up in the mountains of Western NC. He taught at Beth Meyer while a student at NCSU and also served as Beth Meyer's youth director when he was teaching in the Wake County Public Schools. He spent a year studying in Israel and has worked in Miami and Vancouver. He's delighted to be back at Beth Meyer teaching our teens.

Steve LaSala has been a member of Beth Meyer for twenty years, and always seems to be taking a class in something, from Melton to meditation. He has long had an interest in comparative religion, is the coordinator for Beth Meyer's participation in the annual Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build, and has organized several other interfaith encounters. He's a professional cabinetmaker, a cyclist, a sailor, and enjoys theater and dance.

Allison Mitteer recently received her MA in Religion at Duke, where she studied how modern Judaism intersects with race and gender. She loves being involved with Jewish life and has spent time living abroad in Israel as well as interning for the Greensboro Jewish Federation, and will be Youth advisor at Beth Shalom for the 2018-2019 year. Allison's other recent pursuits have included calligraphy and circus arts.

Josh Orol grew up in Raleigh and recently earned an MFA in creative writing at NCSU. He will be working at Beth Meyer for this year as youth coordinator and synagogue programs director. Josh likes music and poetry, and is moved by the Jewish drive to keep fixing the world.

Ira Planer has been teaching at Beth Meyer since 2007, first as a substitute and then as a 2nd grade teacher in 2010. He now teaches students in 3rd - 12th grade. His interests include community involvement, music, and teaching children of all ages about how to make a difference in this world.

Rabbi Eric Solomon graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of MD and received rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College. He has worked with teens in New York City, served as the rabbinical supervisor for Camp Harlem (a Reform Movement sleep-away camp) and as the head educator of a summer trip to Israel.

Rabbi Jenny Solomon attended Brown University, was ordained from Hebrew Union College, and completed a doctorate in counseling. She spent time studying in Israel and received a Wexner Fellowship. She serves as a rabbi at Beth Meyer Synagogue and is director of *Libi Eir* Awakened Heart Community Mikveh. The proud mother of Meirav, Adi and Natan, Rabbi Jenny also loves to run, practice meditation and yoga, and cook.

***At Beth Meyer - it's not only about school . . .
We have plenty of time for fun too!***

In addition to social time before class each week (either lunch or dinner), we run several programs each month for Beth Meyer Teens.

Under the auspices of USY (United Synagogue Youth - the youth arm of the Conservative Movement), our programs are designed for all teens at Beth Meyer. Jewish teens who are not members at Beth Meyer are welcome to join us - but there may be an additional fee for some programs.

Need to show leadership skills on your college applications? Step up to help with our leadership council!

Select Tentative USY Dates to Note

Sept 2	Emerald Point Water Park
Sept 2-3	Labor Day Lock In
Sept 23	Sukkah Building
Nov 16-18	Regional Fall Convention
Dec 1	Pre-Hanukkah USY Lock-in
Jan 25-27	NC Shabbaton
Mar 17	Hamantashen Baking Marathon
Mar 21	Purim Palooza
Apr 7	Kings Dominion
May 24-27	USY Regional Spring Convention

Plus monthly Shabbat dinners . . .and more!

Registration

Please fill out this form on both sides
and return it to the religious school office
by Sunday, Aug 26

Student Name: _____

Student E-mail: _____

Student cell: _____

Parent e-mail: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Fees:

- Tuition:
\$60 per quarter for Beth Meyer members
\$90 per quarter for non-members
*(If you register for all 4 quarters by August 26, the
tuition is \$200 for members, \$300 for non-members)*
- Books & Materials Fee: \$40 per year

*Financial assistance is available –
call the synagogue office for information*

*Please make all checks payable to:
Beth Meyer Religious School*

Course Registration:

Some courses have a size limit and will be assigned
on a first-come first-served basis. Other courses may
give older students priority.

Registration for the 1st quarter is due by August 26.
You may sign up now for subsequent quarters but
there will be future registration dates and reminders.
There is a slight tuition break if you register for all 4
quarters by August 26.

Please mark your choices below (one for each perek*) and return this form (fill out both sides) to the school office by August 26.

1st Quarter

Sundays, Sept 30 - Oct 28

Lunch at noon, classes from 12:20 - 1:10, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

Perek Alef*

- Pirke Avot
 Jewish Identity Through Art

Perek Bet

- Coming to America
 Jews and Sports

2nd Quarter

Sundays, Nov 4 - Dec 9 (no class on Nov 25)

Lunch at noon, classes from 12:20 - 1:10, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

Perek Alef

- Hadashot (news)
 Jewish Music

Perek Bet

- A Picture is Worth 1000 Words
 Shal-Om: Jewish Spirituality

3rd Quarter

Sundays, Jan 6 - Feb 10 (no class Jan 20)

Dinner at 5:45, classes from 6:20 - 7:10, 7:10 - 8:00 pm

(Feb 3 - classes will be at 12:20 and 1:10)

Perek Alef

- Judaism in the Roman Empire
 The Many Jewish Gods

Perek Bet

- Jews, Technology & Rock
 Major World Religions

4th Quarter

Sundays, Feb 24 - Mar 24

Lunch at noon, classes from 12:20 - 1:10, 1:10 - 2:00 pm

Perek Alef

- Judaism and Free Speech
 Mussar for Teens

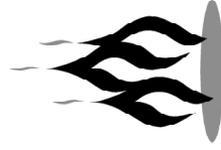
Perek Bet

- Shalom Y'All
 The Torah is ... Poem

**Perek is a class period*

שלום
سلام
Peace

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Torah • Avedah • Gemilut Hasadim