



Fall 2009 JTEEN^{MW} Educational Experiences



The Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life is proud to be a beneficiary of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest and its United Jewish Appeal, and gratefully acknowledges significant funding towards the cost of every JTEEN^{MW} participant's education in addition to tuition payments, acting as partners with their parents in providing Jewish educational experiences for our teenagers.

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Contemporary Issues

Jewish Civics Initiative-Michal Greenbaum

The JCI workshops guide you to getting involved in your community. You learn how to advocate for your beliefs by discovering your personal approach to taking control of a situation. As a Jewish teen, you recognize how Judaism plays a role in community service and how you should take action to accomplish great things.

Jewish Sex Ethics-Barry Bender

Your heart tells you to do one thing, but your brain says something else. Which message should you trust and follow? How do you make that decision? Is Judaism at all relevant to you when dealing with these types of situations and can it be? In this course you will discuss issues related to love and marriage, such as dating, the wedding ceremony, sexuality, divorce, raising a family, etc. The struggles and challenges you face are not unique and you are not alone in dealing with them

Medical Ethics-Avi Pinsker

Is it possible that our ancient Jewish tradition can help us to deal with the serious ethical issues that modern medical technology has brought to us? Cloning, animal experimentation, assisted suicide, abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, and transplants are just a few of the topics to be discussed. How would you act when faced with these serious choices?

News for Jews-Yosef Carlebach

Are you a news hound? The major newsworthy events of the week will be examined in light of their effects upon Israel and Jews everywhere. How do the happenings in the Middle East affect you? What happened at the White House this week? Who's who in the Jewish world? These and many more questions will be answered each week as you take a look at the world around you.

Religious Cults, Extremism, and Brainwashing-Barry Bender

What are religious cults? What is the difference between a cult and a religion? Could I be brainwashed? How do religious extremists become that way? Can the process be undone? In this class we will learn the fundamentals of mind control and brain-washing as well as deprogramming. What does Judaism think about free will with regard to belief?

The Ethics of Warfare-Mekor Chaim Ambassador

Learn and discuss with a Mekor Chaim/Steinsaltz Ambassador who is a former IDF soldier, among other things, his own experiences with the Israeli notion of "purity of arms." The specifics of this doctrine are as follows: "The Israel Defense Force servicemen and women will use their weapons and force only for the purpose of their mission, only to the necessary extent, and will maintain their humanity even during combat. IDF soldiers will not use their weapons and force to harm human beings who are not combatants or prisoners of war, and will do all in their power to avoid causing harm to their lives, bodies, dignity, and property."

The Mekor Chaim/Steinsaltz Ambassador program brings to Jewish communities in the US post army students of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz-the world renowned scholar and teacher-in order to teach community members of all ages and denominations how to take ownership of their faith and employ it in all aspects of their life

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Jewish Business Ethics-Avi Pinsker

How far are we willing to go to succeed in business? How do we decide what is right and wrong in the business of making money? Wall Street? Bernie Madoff? President Obama and his economic team? Unlike other religions, Judaism has never viewed poverty as a virtue. Wealth, however, has always been seen as a challenge. Let's learn and discuss how we may be able to strike an ethical balance between these conflicting approaches to money and wealth.

Creative Expressions

Express Yourself! Art and Judaism-David Master

Find out what Frida Kahlo, Marc Chagall, and Leonardo Da Vinci all have in common! Explore your Jewish roots through different mediums, like glass, clay, watercolor and collage. Bring your creative ideas, colorful souls and passion for self expression. We will take arts and crafts to a new level!

Hazamir Choir-Cantor Joel Kaplan

Our resident choir has become renowned. In addition to performing at local Jewish choral festivals and at community events, you will gain a new appreciation for the variety of styles of Jewish music. Hazamir is a professionally conducted

music chorale. Come and experience how Jewish music can add joy and meaning to our lives. *(Participants will be asked to perform concerts, etc. at additional times).*

Jammin' with a Jewish Rockstar-Various Artists

Music and rhythm are a deep and integral part of Jewish Culture. This Musical IQ workshop will explore the basics of rhythm and music in a fun and interactive way. Empowered with the important experiential tools of music and rhythm, this course incorporates Jewish stories and themes into the repertoire of programming emphasizing the value of learning through experience and the ability of the musical experience to communicate the inner and deeper dimensions of the Jewish teachings.

Judaism Through Photography-Barry Bender

Anyone can snap a picture, but can you shoot a photograph? Photography is a serious art form, with very basic principles. It doesn't take much to train your eye to see the shots that other people may overlook. We will be covering basic concepts of composition and lighting, and then moving into post production retouching and "Photoshop". We will be applying our creative skills and energies to Jewish themes. *A digital camera is necessary for this course.*

Top Chef-Judaism through Food-Michal Robinson

Excite your culinary senses and learn to do the same for others. Be amazed and surprised how different foods can teach you about different Jewish cultures around the world. Travel to exotic places and time periods by creating amazing and delicious delicacies that are surprisingly Jewish!

Film and Media

Action! Making Your Own Film-Eric Goldman

Acquire the basic knowledge of digital filmmaking and then make your own film that expresses a Jewish idea. Under the guidance of Dr. Eric Goldman, founder and president of Ergo Media, you will work with professional grade computer and software in order to create your own digital films. This is a tremendous opportunity to bring Jewish creativity to life as you discover the art of filmmaking while expressing Jewish ideas through this art form.

Act Out! Jewish Drama-Jesse Freedman

Discover how one may express Jewish ideas through the medium of theatre, plays and the performing arts. Jewish stories come alive, conflicts become clearer and the Jewish experience is studied through the art of drama.

MTV Challenge-Yosef Carlebach/Shmuel Greene

The medium is the message. And what is the message being portrayed on TV programs and MTV videos? Do we accept these values? What passes as funny, cool or responsible? How do people treat each other in their relationships with family and friends? This is especially noteworthy since there has been much discussion of the effect that the media has on teen behavior. We will be watching music video clips and exploring the issues that come up.

Twilight Zone-Barry Bender

"The Twilight Zone," the science fiction show that started it all. No longer was science fiction relegated to aliens from Mars coming to conquer earth, but rather mystical occurrences and coincidences that changed people's destinies. We will learn about its creator, Rodman (Rod) Serling, son of Samuel and Esther Serling, the genius behind the series. We will learn the stories behind the show and what motivated him. The show that led the way for Star Trek, Star Wars, Outer Limits, The "X" Files, and many more, will be our laboratory. We will be watching actual episodes of the original twilight zone series as well as other works, and examining the Jewish Values learned from them.

HEBREW

Hebrew/Beginners-Michal Robinson

This course covers everything beginners need to know. From letter recognition and vowels with their pronunciation to blending individual letters into words and grammar. *Extra course work between sessions will be necessary in order to reach the desired goals of this course.*

Hebrew/Intermediate-Michal Robinson

This course is for those with beginner's knowledge, as we focus on vocabulary and meaning. *Extra course work between sessions will be necessary in order to reach the desired goals of this course.*

Holocaust

Being Jewish in Hell-Yosef Carlebach

Did you know that even through the most difficult times of the holocaust, there were still active tiny Jewish communities in the concentration camps and the ghettos? The religious questions they faced were complicated and difficult. If we only have food for 200 people and there are 500 here, how do we decide who gets food and who doesn't? Do we celebrate Yom Kippur, and are we allowed to fast? We will be studying actual "responsa" (questions & answers) of the holocaust. What would you have answered to the above Questions? What would you have done?

Israel

Israel Interactive-Shmuel Greene

Learn about Israel like you have never before! For the first time ever we'll be using leading-edge computer and internet-based instructional programs that will enable us to experience everything Israel in an interactive fashion. Interactivity is accomplished through stunning visual, multi-media presentations that incorporate active role playing and dialogue, thereby engaging and impacting all involved. You won't want to miss this program!

Israeli Teen Life-Via Movies-Israel Program Center Shaliach

Slumdog Millionaire, High School Musical, Spiderman...movies and media are a reflection of who we are. Almost every teen knows the above mentioned movies and they define us as American teens. What movies do Israeli teens watch and why? Do they like or know other movies and what does that say about who they are as Israeli teens. Enter the world of an Israeli teen with an Israeli teen, one of our own *Rishonim* from Israel.

The Rishonim program brings young dedicated post High School, Pre IDF young Israelis from MetroWest's partnering communities in Israel as volunteer Shlichim (Israeli emissaries) to serve in the community as informal teen educators.

I-Tunes-Israel Program Center Shaliach

From Israeli hip-hop to the oldies but goodies, come learn these great Israeli tunes (I-Tunes) from one of our own authentic Israeli *Rishonim*. Through the study of the actual songs our students will learn about contemporary Israeli life and how it connects to their own Jewish journey.

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Lifecycle

24-The Jewish Lifecycle-Avi Pinsker

There are lots of Jewish Life cycle events that may take place at any given time. Do you know what to do? Have you ever been to a shiva home and not know what to do or say? What is different about a Jewish funeral than a non-Jewish one? What happens at a Jewish wedding? Why is there a Chupah? Why do they break a glass? A Plate? What happens at a Brit? What happens at a traditional Friday night dinner? How does one convert to Judaism? Does each movement in Judaism have its own way of doing these things? How do they differ? How are they the same? Find out all the different things that make us so unique.

Judaism 101-Yosef Carlebach

As you get older, people assume that you just must know certain things. Sometimes it's just a little bit too embarrassing to admit that you have no idea what they are talking about. How would you like to be the person that nods in agreement, not because you are trying to hide the fact that you don't know what they are talking about, but rather from the perspective that you "do" know. This class will cover the Jewish basics and give you a working knowledge on Jewish stuff you may actually use.

Literature

Free Your Mind! Advanced Talmud-Shmuel Greene

Take yourself into intellectual territories that you have never before ventured into! This course is an intensive study of texts of the Talmud that will leave you wanting for more. The material is challenging and the enjoyment is immense! Heated discussion is more than welcome in this course! No prior knowledge necessary!

It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's A...Rabbi?-Mekor Chaim Ambassador

Living in caves? Burning the world with their eyes? Drunken murders? Resurrecting the dead? Battles with demons? Are these super heroes? No, these are the rabbis of the Talmud. In this course, we will explore and unpack the most radical Talmudic stories and discover what the rabbis were up to when they were not studying Torah.

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The Family Guy-Bible Style-Avi Pinsker

The Bible is full of very colorful characters. Was Eve really at fault for Adam eating the apple? Was Sarah a Jealous Housewife? Did Rebecca really deceive Isaac for the sake of her son? Why did Jacob favor Joseph? Did Jacob ever really love Leah? You may be very surprised at what really happened behind the scenes. We always hear about these people, but are their actions really ones we want to emulate for ourselves?

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- The Family Guy-Bible Style
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Barry Bender

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- Jewish Sex Ethics
- Judaism Through Photography
- Religious Cults, Extremism and Brainwashing
- Twilight Zone

David Master

- Express Yourself! Art

Eric Goldman

- Action! Making Your Own Film

Jesse Freedman

- Act Out! Jewish Drama

Joel Kaplan

- Hazamir Choir

Mekor Chaim Ambassadors

- It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's A...Rabbi?
- The Ethics Of Warfare

Michal Greenbaum

- Jewish Civics Initiative

Michal Robinson

- Beginners Hebrew
- Intermediate Hebrew
- Top Jewish Chef

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- I-Tunes
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- Free Your Mind-Talmud
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Various Artists

- Jammin' With A Jewish Rockstar

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- Being Jewish in Hell
- Judaism 101
- MTV Challenge
- News for Jews



JEWISH TEEN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES NETWORK



THE PARTNERSHIP
for Jewish Learning and Life

