

EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM

Building Character

Our unique educational format continues in the eighth grade, breaking boundaries of the conventional classroom setting, with seminar-type format molded specifically for teens. Our eighth graders take the year looking backwards at our history and where they fit into that history. With guidance from Facing History and Ourselves – a non-profit organization that empowering teachers & students to think critically about history & to understand the impact of their choices - the group has open discussions sharing personal narratives, questioning the factors that contribute to who they are, while discovering how their Jewish identity influences relationships with others. They weekly seminar format varies each week, helping build confidence, to create passionate and critical thinking, all while paving the way for life experiences.

Los Angeles/Tel Aviv Global Teen Twinning Partnership Program. Temple Isaiah together with Leo Baeck Temple and University Synagogue make up a Los Angeles cluster. The 8th grade students from our three congregations are partnered with 8th and 9th grade students from the Ironi Yud Daled School in northern Tel Aviv.

The Global Teen Twinning Program provides a unique opportunity for our students to visit and connect with our ancient homeland at a minimal cost, to create lasting relationships between our Temple Isaiah families and families in Israel, and to build community and friendships among our own students. Prior to our trip to Israel, our teens will attend several mandatory pre-trip informational and programmatic sessions. These sessions will take place over the course of the Fall 2017 semester at each of the three participating synagogues. This program offers a unique opportunity for our 8th graders not only to travel to Israel, but to create lasting connections with one another and with Israeli teens, and to unite Jewish communities around the world.

When:

- December 19-28, 2017 teens travel to Tel Aviv.
- March 18-28, 2018 Participants host Ironi Yud Daled teens in Los Angeles.

*Please note: Dates are subject to change

Registration:

- The application deadline is August, 15 2017. Available space is limited.
- Cost is \$350 plus airfare (which is a group ticket that we must purchase together)

Our eighth grade students also, continue participating in Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! and Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood.

ROAD MAP FOR EIGHTH GRADE

Shevet Noar

Who am I?



“Bein adam l’atzmo” - Self

Question:

- How does discovering my Jewish identity help me figure out my place within my family and the larger community?

Action:

- Sharing personal narratives
- Looking at video and text examples of struggles with identity
- Questioning ourselves about factors that contribute to who we are
- Looking at identity of communities we feel a part of to understand our roles within them
- Looking at how our identities inform how we treat people around us



“Bein adam l’chavero” - Community

Question:

How does discovering my Jewish identity affect my relationships with other people, the past, the present, and the future?

Action:

- Examining choices of people who came before and seeing what comes next
- Discussing how individuals like ourselves make choices every day that affect history
- Internalizing how the choices we make have great power



“Bein adam l’Makom” - God

Question:

- How does discovering my Jewish identity affect my personal theology?

Action:

- Articulating a personal theology or meaning of Judaism