

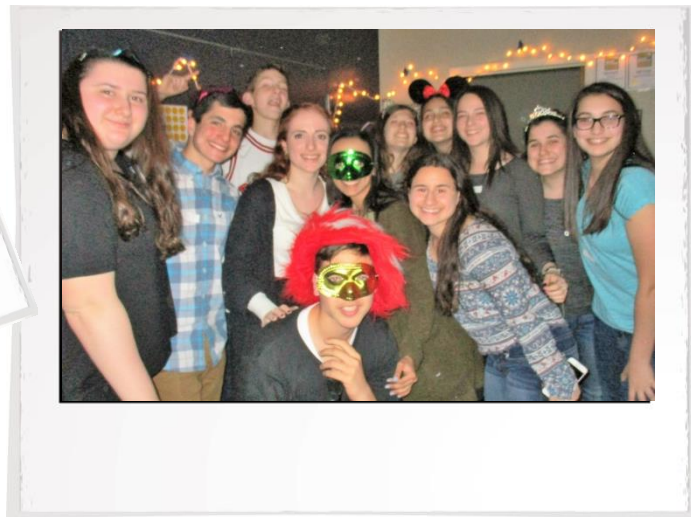
bchsjs

bergen county high school of jewish studies



fall 2016

course catalog



BCHSJS Information

WHEN and WHERE is BCHSJS?

Sunday mornings from
9:30am – 12:45pm at
The Moriah School
53 South Woodland Street
Englewood, NJ 07631

WEEKDAY OFFICE INFO:

475 Grove Street – Lower Level
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Phone: 201-488-0834
Fax: 201-488-2126
office@bchsjs.org

WHAT IS BCHSJS?

It's about being with friends, learning new things, figuring out who you are and making a difference in a Jewish environment. It's not just the classes, it's also the retreats and the special trips!
It's the place to be on Sunday mornings!

WHY COME TO BCHSJS?

Engage in Passionate Learning
Discuss what really matters to YOU with open-minded teachers. Hang out with your old friends and make new ones! Discover a safe place to find out who you really are.
Change the World!

WHO WILL YOU FIND AT BCHSJS:

8th-12th Grade Teens: Amazing friends who will change your life!
Charismatic, Energetic, and Knowledgeable Teachers.
All Kinds of Jews!
Reform, Orthodox, Renewal, Conservative, Unaffiliated, Atheist, Questioning, Cultural, Rebellious, Humanist Jews, and "just Jewish" Jews... & the real you!

"BCHSJS has changed my life. I have made life-long friends, met amazing mentors, and I learned information that will stick with me forever."
Maddy Gold

"BCHSJS not only helped me to learn more about Judaism, but it also helped me learn more about myself and my passions."
Jake Slomowitz

BCHSJS has given me great friendships, not only with peers, but with amazing teachers. My bchsjs teachers have been mentors, and have taught me great life lessons in addition to Jewish education."
Ben London



"BCHSJS welcomed me into a family. One that I never want to leave."
Emily Forer

Class Choices - Period 1

Connections through Time: 8th Grade Core Requirement

Mr. Barnett Goldman
Ms. Avital Moss

This will be a highly interactive course for students to learn about BCHSJS, themselves, and their new classmates. Not only will there be a ton of fun activities, there will also be opportunities to explore the history, beliefs, and customs of Judaism. Look forward to some awesome projects, activities, videos, and discussions!

The Ethicist Grades 9-12

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

You rent a house with some other students who give you permission to host a party. After the party you discover that a housemate has borrowed a bike and left it in a downstairs hallway. The bike has been vandalized, presumably by a party guest. Given that no one will confess to the crime, are you responsible for the repairs? Every weekend, the New York Times Magazine article *The Ethicist* takes a moral dilemma like this and offers an answer. Taking some of the very same dilemmas as our starting point, we will explore what a Jewish perspective can add to the discussion. *Former students may enroll in this class again as there are all new issues.*

Facing History Grades 9-12

Mr. Michael Alweis

Interested in history? Curious about what it's like to read ancient sacred Jewish texts? Come join us as we explore the connections between the past and today's world. At the same time, we will face challenging and interesting questions about morality, ethics, and Judaism.

It Always Sounds Better in Yiddish Grades 9-12

Cantor Orna Green

Jokes, songs, stories and yes...even curses – they all sound better in Yiddish. For a taste of this rich and lively language, join this class. We will learn basic conversation skills, acquire the right intonation, listen to some stories and songs by native Yiddish-speakers, and pepper it all with some of the juiciest “blessings” you have ever heard!

Pirkei Avot – Ethics of the Fathers Grades 9-12

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

Pirkei Avot is one of the earliest and the best of the “How to ...” books. It provides direction on “how to” live a moral and ethical lifestyle. We will analyze selections of this classic Jewish work and have lively classroom discussions from each of the chapters of this masterpiece. We will also compare various selections from Pirkei Avot to the ethics that should be part of today's society.

Small Miracles Grades 9-12

Ms. Deborah Stack

Aliens? Ghosts? UFOs? Practically forever, unexplained phenomena have inspired powerfully inspiring (or insane) stories. Yet what are these terrifying occurrences, really? Perhaps they are alien, or perhaps they are miracles. Miracles are an important part of Jewish history, from rainbows to the burning bush and beyond. In this class, we will read different modern-day miracle stories each week, finding inspiration and discussing real-life accounts of inexplicable occurrences. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

Class Choices - Period 2

Deadly Conflicts in the Bible

Mr. Michael Alweis

Grades 9*-12 (* 9th graders with permission from the Principal)

We will examine some of the most famous events in Biblical history which describe conflicts of a deadly nature. When Cain and Abel fight, what is the fight all about? Why does one brother kill the other? What are the consequences of this story? Other stories to be studied are the fight between Jacob and the angel, the destruction of the Egyptians at the Red Sea, the attacks on the Jewish people by Amalek and others (the origins of anti-Semitism?). This is a challenging and stimulating course which should inspire the students to further their interest and love of Bible study. It may also be a way to work out some of those anger management issues that you may have....!!

Follow the Leader: Exploring Jewish Leadership

Mr. Barnett Goldman

Grades 10-11

It may just be semantics, but is there a difference between being a Jewish leader versus a leader who is Jewish? Participants in this unique course will learn the nuts and bolts of what our ancestors, our historical texts and our role models might say it takes to be a Jewish leader. We will grapple together with the following questions: How are teens in Israel and teens in America prepared to be leaders in their communities? Are there differences between how leadership is perceived in America and Israel? Is Jewish leadership different than American leadership? Come hone your leadership skills that can be used in your Jewish community and in your "secular" community by learning how to lead a discussion, manage your time, and deal with conflict resolution. You will have the opportunity to meet with prominent American and Israeli leaders, as well as get to know your peer leaders in Israel and create life-long friendships. Upon successful completion, participants will be awarded a leadership certificate. Some students will have the opportunity to travel to Israel on a Fellowship. *Entrance into this year-long class is by application only.*

The Holocaust Through the Eyes of Maus

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

Grades 8-9

Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer prize winning book *Maus* is one of many works about the Holocaust. But *Maus* is unique in being a graphic novel - ok, it's a comic strip - that depicts Jews as mice, and Nazis as cats. We will be studying *Maus* to learn about the Holocaust through one man's experience while also raising questions about appropriate ways of preserving the memory of the Holocaust in art - whether in novels, films, paintings or historical research

Holy Brother

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

Grades 9*-12 (* 9th graders with permission from the Principal)

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, one of the most influential and internationally renowned Jewish personalities of the twentieth century, died at the age of 69 on October 20, 1994. Alternately known as "The Dancing Rabbi", "The Singing Rabbi" or "The Hippie Rabbi", Shlomo Carlebach was widely regarded both as the father of contemporary Jewish music and one of the original founders of the Jewish "outreach" movement. He was a songwriter, musician, and recording artist who performed alongside Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, and Pete Seeger at "peace and love" concerts in the '60's. Shlomo saw the Divine spark in every person he encountered and strove to ignite that spark until it burst into flame. We will examine issues in the life of Shlomo Carlebach and compare and contrast his issues with personal issues/experiences teens have today.

How Do I Decide?

Ms. Avital Moss

Grades 8-9

You and a group of your friends have ridden bicycles to a lake that is near a friend's house. After a while, you realize it is getting late and is time to go home. As you prepare to leave, you notice one of your group is missing. You turn around to see him struggling in the water. He may be drowning. What should you do? What is your responsibility in this matter? Why do you have a responsibility in this matter? Believe it or not, it's one of the most difficult decisions a person could ever make. Throughout the semester our class will encounter various complex scenarios and answer the question, "How do I decide?" We will also be looking at what Jewish tradition says about these topics.



Class Choices - Period 2

Continued

Let's Have Fun with Hebrew Grades 9-12

Cantor Orna Green

A course in Modern Hebrew that aims to have students master basic Hebrew vocabulary and conversation skills, in a fun and participatory way. Using Israeli songs, movies, and games, students will hone their existing Hebrew language skills (each on his/her own level) as well as practice newly acquired words and phrases in a fun and informative environment. *No prior knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary is necessary, but students are expected to have the ability to read Hebrew and recognize the Hebrew letters of the aleph-bet in print and/or script.*

Muggles, Magic, and Matzah Balls Grades 8-9

Ms. Yardena Bannett

Step into the magical world of Hogwarts as we explore Judaism through the lens of Harry Potter. Explore classic Potter themes such as immortality, good vs. evil, love and prejudice. Plus find out whether Hippogriffs, Unicorns, and Thestrals really exist!

Paint Like the Greats (Add'l Fee \$60) Grades 8-12

Ms. Deborah Stack

Learn to paint in the styles of the biggest Jewish names in the art world. We will explore some of the most influential Jewish artists of history. We will create faux stained glass in the style of Chagall, explore Orphism while studying Sonia Delaunay, and create portraits in the style of Modigliani. Learn about influential Jews in every field of art and celebrate their work with you own unique creations. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*



Leadership Opportunity

Follow the Leader Course

Offered on Sundays for 10th-11th graders. Includes establishing a connection to Israeli students, a Leadership Certificate at the end of the year, and a trip to Israel for a number of course participants.

Applications for this course are being accepted now until September 6, 2016.

Don't Delay! - Apply NOW!

Download the application from our website, www.bchsjs.org, or email Ethan at Federation at ethanb@jfnnj.org

Recommendations and References

The BCHSJS Principal will write college recommendations for all enrolled seniors and will provide job references for both current students and alumni. Transcripts will also be sent out upon request.

Class Choices - Period 3

Biblical Figures in the Analyst's Chair **Grades 10-12**

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

(May be taken for Middle College Credit for additional fee of \$400 by 11th & 12th graders)

We all know some Bible stories. But don't we worry how it could be that one of our forefathers - Jacob - was such a liar? And what exactly was Jonah's problem with giving a town the opportunity to repent? Why was the prophet Elijah suicidal? We will be digging beneath the surface of the Torah to reveal the deep lessons we can learn from the personalities behind the stories.

Exotic Jewish Cultures **Grades 8-9**

Michael Alweis

We will take a look at many of the interesting customs, traditions and foods(!) of Jews from India, Ethiopia, and everywhere else. We will see how different Jewish communities embody their surrounding cultures and yet maintain a common core that unites Jews all over the world.

The Jewish Perspective On... **Grades 10-12**

Ms. Yardena Bannett

Have you ever questioned why a 3,000 year old tradition has anything to do with *you*? Is Judaism a thing of the past that has little relevance in the year 2016? Come join a wide array of discussions from some of the greatest Jewish thinkers of the last century as we delve into topics such as love and romance, free will and what G-d does in his free time.

Jewish Volunteer Corp: Documenting Out Jewish Stories **Grades 9-12**

Mr. Barnett Goldman

In the Jewish tradition, there is a mitzvah to honor the elderly. In this service-learning class, we will learn together as well as be actively involved in volunteering with a group of seniors. Approximately half of our class sessions will take place (during school hours - transportation provided) at an independent facility. We will build relationships with a group of seniors, learn their Jewish histories, and document them in engaging videos and a year-long project. This class is for those who want to make a difference for the young at heart and to build a bridge to the generations that came before us.

Netflix and Jews II **Grades 10-12**

Ms. Avital Moss

Let's binge learn something that matters. Explore parallels between Netflix's most popular shows and the current week's Torah portion. *You may enroll in this class even if you have not taken Part I.*

The Week in Review **Grades 8-9**

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

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 we take an in-depth look at the world around us. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

What We Know for Sure About Israel is... **Grades 9-12**

Cantor Orna Green

We will challenge the assumptions and separate truth from fiction about some of the "hot-button" issues concerning Israel. Some of the topics to be explored include the Arab-Israeli conflict, the BDS movement, the origins of anti-Semitism and its current incarnations, and Israel's portrayal in the media. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and form educated and informed opinions about these issues as well as the challenges and triumphs Israel experiences every day.

You Be the Judge **Grades 8-9**

Ms. Deborah Stack

"You Be the Judge" is an exercise in values clarification. Through the presentation of different cases depicting moral dilemmas, we will explore underlying issues that confront and challenge us in our everyday lives. The class will be run in a courtroom fashion and students will be required to debate and participate.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TIKKUN OLAM - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Whether it's collecting food for the needy or helping out in the Northern NJ region, BCHSJS provides various ways to fulfill community service obligations to your secular school.

Jewish Volunteer Corp

Participate in this year-long service learning class, and have the opportunity to be actively involved in volunteering with a group of seniors. Approximately half of the class sessions will take place (during class hours - transportation provided) at an independent facility. Build relationships with a group of seniors, learn their Jewish histories, and document them in engaging videos and a year-long project. This class is for those who want to make a difference for the young at heart and build a bridge to the generations that came before us.

Mitzvah Day - November 6, 2016

BCHSJS will partner with the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. In addition to a schools supplies drive, students will also have the opportunity to choose an after-school project.

Super Sunday - January 29, 2017

BCHSJS students can volunteer to participate in Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey's Super Sunday! Students receive training before making calls or help with filing and sorting. As a beneficiary agency of Federation, it is important that we show our support on this day!

Winter Trip to New Orleans - February 19-22, 2017

This February, BCHSJS will collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to help out a community that is still continuing to recover. Volunteer your time over Presidents Week and be inspired!

DRIVES and COLLECTIONS

School Supplies Drive for Mitzvah Day

Students can participate in a collection of school supplies for *Oasis*, a haven for women and children in Paterson, NJ. Supplies will be collected until Mitzvah Day, November 6, 2016.



Chanukah Gift Drive

Join BCHSJS students in collecting unwrapped new toys in November. Toys will be distributed to children through the Bergen County Chanukah Toy Drive.



Clothing Drive for Israel

BCHSJS will collect new and gently used clothing for *Yad Leah*, an organization that sends clothing to communities throughout Israel for families in need. Students will then be invited to visit Yad Leah's distribution center in Passaic to help sort and pack the clothing to be sent to Israel.

Tomchei Shabbos Food Collection For Passover

Students are asked to bring in Kosher for Passover food between Purim and Passover.

Weekly Tzedakah Collection

Each week, tzedakah is collected for a special BCHSJS yearly project. Allocation decisions are made by the students.

BCHSJS TRIPS

Shabbaton (Friday-Saturday Night)

Fun and friends on a Friday night.

Learn the true meaning of Shabbat while spending time with your BCHSJS friends.



Overnight (Saturday Night-Sunday)

Come spend a Saturday night with your BCHSJS friends!
Featuring fun activities, gym-time, great food, movies and more!

Weekend Shabbaton (Friday-Sunday morning)

An incredible weekend away, jam packed with fun, friends, and programming!
This is the event of the year - DON'T MISS IT!

AFTER-SCHOOL TRIPS

7th and 8th Grade Bowling - September 11, 2016

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to go bowling with BCHSJS!
A great opportunity to meet new people.



Escape Rooms - October 22, 2016

Join your friends for this interactive adventure experience. You must work together as a team to solve clues, puzzles and challenges to escape the room.
Can you make it out in time?



BCHSJS Goes to Broadway - November 20, 2016

A New York City adventure - don't miss out as BCHSJS goes to see Fiddler on the Roof.
To life!!



Ice Skating - December 11, 2016

Chill out and join us for an afternoon of fun on the ice. You won't want to miss it!



Funplex - January 22, 2017

Experience winter fun indoors as we ride go-carts, play laser tag, crash bumper cars, and play arcade games.



Snow Tubing - February 20, 2017

Hit the slopes during President's week with your BCHSJS friends and enjoy the ride!



Six Flags/Great Adventure - April 13, 2017

Join us for our Annual Six Flags trip!
Enjoy thrilling rides and make memories to last a lifetime.

