



## **JJP Fall Courses**

When they reach 3rd grade, children move into the Jewish Journey Project (JJP), where they explore their interested while absorbing knowledge and skills. Each semester kids choose from a wide range of courses. For students who join JJP there is no minimum or maximum number required – we encourage them to take as many as they can fit into their schedules. Each semester has a theme. This semester are courses focus on Bible stories toward the goal of having our learners hear and study the classic narratives of the Torah to understand how they provide a lens for understanding Jewish ethics.

The annual tuition includes participation in as many weekly courses, monthly Intensives, and vacation intensives as you'd like over the year along with 24 sessions of Hebrew Homepage.

### **Mondays- 13 Sessions**

<b>September 11,18,25</b>
<b>October 2,16,23,30</b>
<b>November 6,13,20,27</b>
<b>December 4,11</b>

### **B-Mitzvah Launch**

#### **Monday Section**

#### **6th Grade Core Class**

**4 - 6 pm, Held at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructors: Rabbi Kurt Stein and Yona Verwer**

The Bar Mitzvah Launch is the beginning of a two-year course of study for 6th graders. During the fall semester, learners will study Pirke Avot: the Ethics of our Father (and Mothers) to explore how the rabbis valued interpersonal relationships. One hour weekly will be dedicated to this text study and activities and the second hour will be a hands-on arts workshop where the participants will be creating their own illustrated book of Ethics that interweaves these traditional teachings and other ethical teachings generated by the students themselves. Two chesed service trips will be included in early January after the December vacation.

## Tuesdays- 13 sessions

September 12,19,26
October 3,17,24,31
November 7,14,21,28
December 5,12

### **Bible on Broadway: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Mt. Sinai**

**4–6 pm**

**West Side Institutional**

**3rd – 7th grade**

**Instructors: Mainstage faculty**

New Journey, Same Torah! Join the cast of this original *Mainstages* production and participate in a musical/comedy performance that explores the most famous personalities from the Bible through the lens of modern day commentary. Think Variety Show meets Musical! In this interactive class, we will perform famous scenes from each of the five books of the Torah with a modern twist! You can be Moses using emoji's, Noah posting on Instagram, or Miriam waiting for a commercial break. Use your creativity and share your talents in a production that explores central themes in the Bible and rethink the midrash (commentaries) we use to more fully understand these core Jewish stories. Mainstages has worked with JJP for many years producing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat*, *The Prince of Egypt*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Castle on Hester Street*, *Larry Potter and the Shul of Magic* and *Detective Lingo and the Torah Treasure*.

## Wednesdays

September 13,27
October 18,25
November 1,8,15,29
December 6,13

### **B-Mitzvah Year - 7th Grade Core Class**

**7th Grade Core Class**

**4 - 6 pm, Held at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructors: Vanessa Harper and Hai Piasezky**

Seventh-grade learners will be involved in preparing for their B-Mitzvah by participating in a week 2-hour course in the both fall and spring. This core course will include units on *Jewish Leadership Values*, an *Introduction to Holocaust studies*, and *How to Be a Jewish Advocate*. This is one aspect of the B-Mitzvah Year which also includes monthly one-on-one sessions at home and 4 family sessions.

## **B-Mitzvah Launch**

**6th Grade Core Class**

**4 - 6 pm, Held at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructors: Rabbi Kurt Stein and Yona Verwer**

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## **Thursdays - 11 sessions**

<b>September 7,14,28</b>
<b>October 19,26</b>
<b>November 2,9,16,30</b>
<b>December 7,14</b>

## **Bishul Bible: Recipes from the Torah**

**3rd-5th Grade**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructor: Hillary Lerer**

The Torah is full of yummy details - from the cakes Abraham asks Sarah to make for their guests to Jacob's red lentil stew so delicious his brother Esau trades his birthright for it! In each session we will explore a Torah story that mentions a specific food and how it is prepared. We will prepare the dish, following the Torah's "recipe," eat the food we make, discuss its flavors, and learn about the dish's many variations throughout Jewish history. Children who have not taken a cooking class with JJP will be given preference.

## **Bible-opoly and other Games**

**3rd-4th Grade**

**4–5 pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructor: TBD**

In this exciting class students will combine a love of learning Biblical stories and values with the fun of playing board games! Learnings will create a range creative games all about the Bible to play including a Jewish Game Show! Get ready to join us for a great Family Game Night: Bible Edition including a Bible game show.

**Write your Way to Chutzpah!****3rd – 4th Grade****Instructor: Caroline Rothstein****4–5 pm at JCC Manhattan**

We are a tradition of storytellers and stories – both written and passed down orally through ritual, worship, and performance. The art of creative writing is a front-seat opportunity to engage with our history and how it speaks to us today. Learners in this course will write poems, rap, songs, short stories and short reflections to help connect us to both our Jewish roots and our own authentic voices and truths! Become a writer with chutzpah!

**DIY Jewish Architecture: Bible Edition****3rd – 4th Grade****5-6 pm at JCC Manhattan****Instructor: Amanda Gelb**

Do you like to build things? DIY – Do it Yourself! Add your own flair to Judaism's most famous buildings. In this course, you will design your own sukkah, Holy Temple in Israel (Beit HaMikdash), synagogue, chuppah and other famous Jewish structures. Learn the importance of our shared spaces, both of biblical times and modern day, while flexing your modeling, architecture, and design skills. All levels of builders welcome! This class is reserved for students who have **not** participated in Architecture: DIY Jewish Building to date.

**Cartooning the Torah: Siblings in the Bible****3rd-5th Grade****5-6 pm at JCC Manhattan****Instructor: Jake Friedman**

Do you have a brother? A sister? If you do you do you know that sibling relationships can be full of jealousy, competition, and love. This turns out to be true for the brothers and sisters in the Bible too!. Join us to learn about Jacob and Esau, Rachel and Leah, Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. During each session, we will discuss beginner cartooning techniques and use basic shapes to create our illustrations, so no previous drawing skills required. Taught by a professional artist and children's television animation.

**Debate Club: Find Your Jewish Compass****5th-7th Grade****4–5 pm at JC Manhattan****Instructor: TBD**

There is an old saying that if you have two Jews, you have at least three opinions. In Judaism, disagreement isn't bad, it's an opportunity. Learning to debate and argue your opinion effectively is also an incredibly important skill in everyday life. In this course, we will study some of the most interesting disagreements in Judaism. We will also learn to research topics, organize arguments, and understand the opposition. Join the JJP Debate Club as we tackle topics starting with disagreements with find in the Bible and tackling some current ones too!

## **Cartooning the Kings: Kings David and Saul**

**5th-6th Grade**

**4–5 pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructor: Jake Friedman**

Giants! Witchcraft! Secret Alliances! Battles barbarous and bloody! Come explore the histories of King Saul and King David, all through our own visual interpretation: cartooning. Brain meets brawn, and storytelling meets gory-telling when we bring Judaism's own Game of Thrones to life at the stroke of a pencil. We will learn the most compelling stories about Israel's first two kings, discuss possible interpretations, and draw them in our own fun way. We will discuss beginner cartooning techniques and use basic shapes to create our illustrations, so no previous drawing skills required. Taught by a professional artist and children's television animator.

## **Write your Way to Chutzpah!**

**5th-7th Grade**

**5-6 pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructor: Caroline Rothstein**

We are a tradition of storytellers and stories – both written and passed down orally through ritual, worship, and performance. The art of creative writing is a front-seat opportunity to engage with our history and how it speaks to us today. Learners in this course will write poems, rap, songs, short stories and short reflections to help connect us to both our Jewish roots and our own authentic voices and truths. Become a writer with chutzpah!

## **Be the Rabbi: Adding Your Voice to the Bible**

**5th-7th Grade**

**5-6pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructor: TBD**

For Jews, the main activity after reading the Torah is commenting on and wrestling with its meaning. In this course, we will read famous comments by both ancient and contemporary thinkers on significant Biblical verses. We will ask questions such as, "How can we truly, practically follow 'love your fellows as yourself' in our everyday lives?" What are the boundaries of love and who exactly are our "fellows?" Participants will then become commentators themselves, adding their voices to the tradition and asking their family members, friends, neighbors and teachers what they think. To further expand the discussion, we'll be using digital tools such as Voice Stream.

## Saturday courses - 10 sessions

October 7,14,21,28
November 4,11,18
December 2,9,16

### **Parsha Players**

**3rd–4th Grade**

**3–5 pm at JCC Manhattan**

**Instructors: Ellen Alt and Jake Friedman**

Ever fancy yourself in a theater troupe? Join Parsha Players and help us bring Torah and holiday stories to life! Using costumes, storytelling, music and theatrics, we'll recreate action-packed scenes that delve into the lives of the characters who populate the stories of the Torah. Each week we will perform for the Havurah students at the end of class. This is a great choice students who graduated Havurah and are seeking a bridge class to smooth their transition from Havurah to JJP. This troupe is open to all students!

### **JJP Book Club**

**4th–6th Grade**

**3-4 pm**

**Instructor: Sheila Lewis**

JJP book club provides a restful Shabbat space for book loving children. Learners in grades 4-6 will have the option to read a short or longer book each month. Discussions and activities will be geared for all ages, for books including award winner Annika Thor's "The Lily Pond," ML Stainer's "Joachim's Magic," Aharon Applefeld's "Adam and Thomas," Laura Amy Schlitz's "The Hired Girl," and Heidi Smith Hyde's "Shanghai Sukkah." Participants will engage in in-class discussions, creative role-play and other activities to bring these stories to life.

## Saturday Intensives

### **Shabbat Morning Shul Hop for Families**

**10 am — 12:30 pm**

**Instructor: Rabbi Abby Treu**

**Dates: 9/16; 10/21; 11/18; 1/6**

Join Rabbi Abby Treu to visit synagogues on the Upper West Side. Each month we will visit two synagogues and participate in a part of their Shabbat morning service. If your family is interested in visiting different congregations to experience a range of services and approaches to Jewish community across all denominations, join us! We will visit Stephen S. Wise & The Spanish Portuguese Synagogue; B'nai Jeshurun and Darchei Noam Minyan; The SAJ and Rodeph Shalom; and Ansche Chesed & Romemu. Each monthly we will meet at the first synagogue for a short introduction to the synagogues we'll be visiting and visit its service. We will walk as a group to the second synagogue where we will visit its service followed by a short conversation to debrief. *\*This is not a drop off course. At least one parent MUST accompany the JJP student for this intensive.*

### **In Reel Life**

**7 – 9 pm**

**6th-7th Grade and parents**

**Instructor: Naomi Less**

**Dates: 9/9; 10/21; 11/18; 12/2**

Documentary films are powerful — through this medium we are able to experience the lives of others and feel connected to the most important issues in our society and world. As Jews, we have a responsibility to learn, get involved, and make a difference. Join us for seven very special nights, during which parents and students will view a documentary film followed by a discussion incorporating Jewish texts and values. This year-long course is counted as one JJP class; credit is given for full-year participation. Spring dates will be announced in September.

## Sunday Intensives

### **From Mummies to Masterpieces: JJP at the Museum**

**5th-7th Grade**

**10 am – 2:00 pm**

**Instructor: Ellen Alt**

**Dates: 9/24; 10/22; 11/19 and 12/10**

New York City is home to some of the most impressive art collections in the world just waiting to be explored through a Jewish lens. Jewish text and tradition are the source material for many of the art world's great masterpieces, from Egyptian obelisks to Renaissance biblical canvases to Marc Chagall's modern dreamscapes. Join us for five Sunday sessions at museums across NYC as we discover their treasures from a new perspective. Each session is built around a theme. We start with an artistic exploration at a museum followed by an art workshop back at the JCC where students will create a unique response to their visit. Students need to bring a

brown bag lunch. Students will meet at a museum (varies each session) at 10am and return to the JCC for the studio portion of the course from 12:15-2:30pm.

### **Through A Filmmaker's Lens: Diversity In Judaism**

**6th-7th Grades**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Instructor: Avishai Mekonen**

**Dates: 9/17; 10/15; 11/12; 12/3**

Students will work with filmmaker Avishai Mekonen to plan, shoot, and edit a documentary video. We will take field trips to different neighborhoods and communities to meet with Jews from diverse backgrounds in the NYC area. Students will learn the basics of interviewing to conduct videotape interviews and shoot supporting visual footage that will become a documentary. The final short documentary will be screened for students and their families in early January.

### **JJP Chesed Club**

**3rd-5th Grade**

**10 am – 12:00 pm**

**Instructor: Hillary Lerer**

**Dates: 9/24; 10/22; 11/19 and 12/10**

Do you like helping others? This class is for you! Each session we'll create a different *chesed* (kindness) projects to help people in need, while learning in depth about the Jewish values of *gemilut chesed* (acts of loving kindness), *tzedakah* (charity) and *hakarot hatov* (being thankful). A few of the projects we'll be doing include: making sandwiches for the New York pantry kitchen, baking cookies for a local fire station, and crafting "no-sew" blankets for sick infants in intensive care. Each project will also consider the specific needs of different local communities, and how our projects address those needs in a Jewish way. Together we'll be making a difference — however small —and putting smiles on the faces of people throughout NYC.

### **WILDERNESS JEW: Torah & Environmentalism on the Trail and in the City**

**4th-6th Grade**

**10 am – 1:30 pm**

**Instructor: Joshua Jacobs**

**Dates: 9/17; 10/15; 11/12; 12/3**

Connect with Judaism's ecological and seasonal cycles as we journey through the Torah's models of leadership, community and environmental ethics on the trail and in the city.. Each session will include time for prayerful reflection in nature, team challenges inspired by experiences from the Bible and midrash, and training in basic wilderness and ecology skills. We will begin our journey close to home with two foundational hikes, one in Central Park and one along the Hudson River. Our and fourth hikes will take us a little far afield to develop our hiking skills.

### **What's Jewish About.....?**

**3rd-5th Grade**

**1 – 4:00 pm**

**Instructor: TBD**

**Dates: 9/17; 10/15; 11/12; 12/3**

During this monthly Intensive students will learn "What's Jewish About" different NYC locations and institutions—ones we don't usually associate with Judaism! Students will learn that we can think about Jewishness and Jewish values everywhere and every place.

The trips include: What's Jewish About...The Zoo where we'll talk about Jewish attitudes toward animals at the Central Park Zoo; What's Jewish about Chinatown where we'll visit the Tenement Museum and other Lower East Side landmarks; What's Jewish About...Egypt .....where we'll talk about the Jews centuries as slaves by visiting the Egyptian pyramids at the MET.

### **In the Footsteps of American Jewish History: Charactours**

**5th-7th Grade**

**1 – 4:30 pm**

**Instructor: Jon Goldstein and Andrew Davis**

**Dates: 9/24; 10/22; 11/19 and 12/10**

New York City has been the epicenter of American Jewish History since the days of New Amsterdam. In this course we are going to get out of the classroom and follow the footsteps of our Jewish predecessors through four walking tours focusing on different aspects of history. Each session will be joined by an expert New York City tour guide and an historical character.

We will explore:

- Lower Manhattan and the role Jews played in colonial America and the Revolutionary War
- Ellis Island, also known as the “Jewish Plymouth Rock”
- The Lower East Side important to both German and Eastern European Jews
- Harlem, a bustling neighborhood that was home to the third largest concentration of Jews on earth during WWI and now home to JJC Harlem.

## **December Vacation Intensive**

### **Jewish Kids Rock**

**3rd-7th Grade**

**December 26th - 29th 9:30am - 3 pm**

**Instructor: Naomi Less and Band Coaches**

Join us for our 5th annual Jewish Kids Rock Intensive. Over 3 ½ days , participants will collaborate to write both the lyrics and music for a new rock song based on a story or theme from the Torah. Participants will play one instrument in the band throughout the week (even if they have no prior experience). Students who do play an instrument are welcome to bring it! Come rock out with Jewish Kids Rock!

## **Online**

### **Hebrew Homepage**

Make Hebrew your homepage! As a Hebrew Homepage participant, you will schedule one 30-minute session each week with a trained tutor for engaging, Internet-based learning. Using an interactive digital platform, Hebrew Homepage provides an opportunity for you to benefit from one-on-one Hebrew reading practice from the convenience of your own home. This course will be scheduled according to your availability. We offer three tracks: Learn to Read Hebrew; Reading Fluency for Prayerbook Hebrew and Modern Hebrew for Beginners. Go to [www.hebrewhomepage.org](http://www.hebrewhomepage.org) to sign up directly.

### **JJP Shabbat and Holiday Table Talk**

An important aspect of Shabbat is learning and discussing the weekly Torah portion, called the Parshat HaShavuah. Each week, we will provide families with a synopsis of the week's Torah portion, along with questions for to be discussed and activities to work on together throughout the week. Families participate in discussions and online journaling. This is a course that can be repeated yearly.

*For further information or clarification, please contact Rabbi Lori Forman-Jacobi at [lforman@jccmanhattan.org](mailto:lforman@jccmanhattan.org) or at 646-467-9221.*