



For 7th – 12th Grade Students
2026/2027

We are thrilled to offer a variety of **NEW** programs to our teens. Each session includes brunch or dinner. Email tleopold@tbj.org with any questions.

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Jews in the News

Tue. October 6, 2026
5:00PM-6:30PM

Learn about current events relating to Jews, from Timothée Chalamet to Benjamin Netanyahu.

A Survivor's Story

Sun. October 18, 2026
10:00AM-11:30AM

We will be joined by a speaker who will tell us about her family's experience during the Holocaust.

Great Jewish Thinkers

Tue. November 3, 2026
5:00PM-6:30PM

Come learn about famous Jewish thinkers from thousands of years ago to modern times. This session will truly explore how we *think* about being Jewish.

Tikkun Olam 1

Sun. November 15, 2026
10:00AM-11:30AM

Participate in activities that help repair the world. Previous projects include cooking for Livingston Neighbors Helping Neighbors and sorting coats for the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges.

Israeli Bootcamp

Thurs. December 10, 2026
5:00PM-6:30PM

What is it like to train for the IDF? Get ready for a bootcamp style class where you will be put to the test!

The LEDI Exhibit at TBJ: Remembering Lives Lost

Thurs. January 14, 2027
5:00PM-6:30 PM

The LEDI (Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated) exhibit honors the lives of women and girls who were killed during the Holocaust. Using art, music, and interactive technology, LEDI provides a powerful new way to understand the Holocaust, its impact, and the lessons we can take with us today. Seventh graders will visit the traveling exhibit right here at TBJ!

Israel Unpacked

Sun. January 31, 2027
10:00AM-11:30AM

Israel is a people and a place. Let's unpack some of what this means and learn about the diversity and beauty of our Homeland. Come with questions as we discuss the complexities of Israel past and present.

Jewish Cooking

Tue. February 9, 2027
5:00PM-6:30PM

Learn how to cook delicious Jewish dishes! Previous projects have included been making challah, matzah pizza, and mandel bread.

Tikkun Olam 2

Tue. February 23, 2027
5:00PM-6:30PM

Participate in activities that help repair the world. Previous projects include cooking for Livingston Neighbors Helping Neighbors and sorting coats for the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges.

ADL: Words to Action

Thurs. March 11, 2027
5:00PM-6:30PM

We will be joined by an educator from the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) for a hands-on program to discuss what antisemitism is, how to know it if we see it, and how we respond in an impactful way.

Jewish Art

Tue. March 23, 2027
5:00PM-6:30PM

From Marc Chagall to AI Hirschfeld, Jewish artists have always had an impact on the world. Learn about some of the most famous Jewish artists and create your own piece inspired by one of them!

Jewish Environmentalism

Tue. April 27, 2027
5:00PM-6:30PM

Learn about what being Jewish has to do with protecting the earth. This class involves going outside and exploring!



RETURNING PROGRAMS

***Madrichim* Program**

Madrichim (Hebrew for guides) serve as teen leaders in our Religious School. Our *Madrichim* program is thriving, and we are proud of our teens who choose to be with our K-6 learners on Sundays and/or Tuesdays. They help in the classrooms and with general logistics to ensure that the school runs smoothly while serving as mentors and role models. Our *Madrichim* can volunteer for service hours or be paid once they turn 14. Teens receive leadership training during our *Madrichim* seminars which run about once a month after Religious School on Sundays. The seminars help teens develop essential skills relevant to working in Religious School and to their everyday lives.

10th Grade Confirmation

The Confirmation year gives our teens the opportunity to explore their personal spiritual journey. Tenth Graders will explore their Jewish identities as they learn with Rabbi Matt and Cantor Lucy. The year culminates with our Confirmation service in the spring.

***Madrichim* Seminar Dates**

Sunday, 8/30, 9:30am-1:30pm
Sunday, 9/27, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sunday, 10/25, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sunday, 12/13, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sunday, 1/31, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sunday, 2/28, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sunday, 4/4, 5:00pm-6:00pm (Zoom)

Confirmation Class Dates

FAMILY BRUNCH: Sunday, 10/4, 12:00pm-1:30pm at the home of Rabbi Gewirtz and Lauren Rutkin

Sunday, 10/18, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 11/1, 11:30am-12:45pm

Friday, 11/13, 5:30pm- 8:00pm

(Shabbat services followed by dinner and programming for Confirmants and Parents/Guardians)

Sunday, 11/22, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 12/6, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 12/20, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 1/24, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 2/7, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 2/21, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 3/7, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 3/14, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 4/4, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 5/2, 11:30am-12:45pm

Sunday, 5/16, 11:30am-12:45pm

Confirmation Service, *erev* Shabbat, May 21



TEENS

NEW THIS YEAR

Teen Tikkun Olam Tracks

Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, is one of our most popular programs each year. Through partnerships with local organizations, teens can choose how they want to give back and make a meaningful impact.

- **Track 1: In-House Impact**

- Hands-on projects at TBJ, including working in Poppy's Garden and making care packages for wounded soldiers in Israel, provide teens with meaningful ways to give back.

- **Track 2: Cooking for a Cause**

- Like to cook? We will be supporting local organizations that feed those in need in our community.

- **Track 3: Beyond Our Walls**

- Teens will meet off-site to participate in volunteer experiences with local organizations, including nursing and assisted living facilities, organizations that address food and housing insecurity, and more. Note: partner organizations may require permission slips or waivers which will be sent prior to the meeting dates. Addresses of projects and program details will be sent during the weeks leading up to the programs.

Tikkun Olam Dates

Track 1: In-House Impact

Saturday, 10/17, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Thursday, 11/19, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, 12/8, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 2/4, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 3/18, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 5/13, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Track 2: Cooking for a Cause

Thursday, 10/29, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 11/19, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, 12/8, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 1/21, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, 3/4, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday 4/29, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Track 3: Beyond Our Walls

Wednesday, 9/30, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Sunday, 11/15, 2:30pm-4:30pm

Sunday, 12/6, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Sunday, 1/31, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday, 3/10, 10:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, 5/1, 10:00am-1:30pm

Through Their Eyes: History & The Holocaust

This three session program gives teens the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts and engage in meaningful discussions about the Holocaust. Participants will learn from a Holocaust survivor, a speaker trained to share her family's experiences, and knowledgeable educators, creating a powerful and reflective learning experience.

Through Their Eyes: History & The Holocaust Dates

Tuesday, 10/20 6:15pm-7:45pm

Tuesday, 12/1 6:15pm-7:45pm

Tuesday, 3/23 6:15pm-7:45pm



TBJ Teens:

TBJ Teens provides flexible access and choice to accommodate the busy schedules of teens. Through social and cultural events, as well as access to leadership opportunities, membership in TBJ Teens is a meaningful way to connect with the community.

Enrollment in TBJ Teens includes participation in all social and cultural programs led by the Teen Leadership Council. Membership also includes the registration fee for up to one off-site day trip. Dates and details coming soon. In addition, membership opens access to applications for leadership and internship opportunities designed to build skills, creativity, and community impact. **Teens will be selected for these programs through applications and interviews.**

Teen Leadership Council (TLC): This group of 12–15 teens serves as leaders and representatives of the TBJ teen community, working together to plan programs and strengthen their leadership skills. Please note that TLC applicants must be enrolled in one other teen program. **Applications Due Sunday, September 6.**

- Meet twice a month (in person + Zoom)
- Be the bridge between teens and adults at TBJ
- Plan 6–8 events throughout the year
- Plan and co-lead at least one event
- Help shape the future of TBJ teen programming
- Receive group and individual supervision

Teen Internships: Selective internship opportunities designed for teens to build their resumes, develop professional skills, and gain meaningful work experience.

Social Media Interns: Applications Due Sunday, September 6, remote and in person

- Create content for TBJ & @TBJ.teens Instagram
- Use Canva and other tools to create content
- Attend bi-weekly strategy + supervision meetings
- Capture content during Religious School + events

Clergy Interns: Applications Due Sunday, September 6, remote and in person

- Assist clergy with visual *tefillah* during Shabbat services
- Support clergy with administrative tasks
- Help design TBJ merch
- Attend bi-weekly supervision meetings

Summer Education Intern: Applications Due Sunday, June 7, in-person

- Support educators with program planning
- Manage and maintain inventory
- Assist with High Holy Day programming
- *Perfect for teens working this summer at Camp TBJ!*

FIDF Ambassadors: Represent the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF), helping to raise awareness, support Israeli soldiers, and take part in meaningful community initiatives. **Applications Due Sunday, September 6.**

- Attend monthly Zoom meetings through the FIDF with other ambassadors nationwide
- Be connected with families in Israel
- Work with supervisor and team to design original service projects
- Meet twice a month (in person + Zoom)

After one year as an FIDF Ambassador, teens are eligible to apply for a **Senior FIDF Ambassador** role. They will act as mentors/guides to the new ambassadors and continue to build on their projects in the works.



Hot Off the Press!
For 11th and 12th
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food for Thought: Continue your Jewish journey beyond Confirmation with *Food for Thought*, a discussion-based learning experience for 11th and 12th graders led by Rabbi Matt and Rabbi Karen.

Throughout the year, we'll gather at local dining spots for meaningful conversations about Jewish life, current events, ethics, and the issues that matter most to teens—all over a shared meal.

Each session will be 90 minutes long. Meeting locations will vary and will be shared with registered participants approximately two weeks before each session. Come hungry for great food, thoughtful discussion, and meaningful connections.

Food For Thought

Sunday, 10/4, 5:00pm-6:30pm

Sunday, 11/22, 5:00pm-6:30pm

Saturday, 1/9, 2:00pm-3:30pm

Saturday, 1/30, 2:00pm-3:30pm

Sunday, 3/7, 5:00pm-6:30pm

Sunday, 5/16, 5:00pm-6:30pm