

NANCY H. AND DAVID B. POSNER



# JUDAIC EDUCATION MAGNET @ HAR SINAI CONGREGATION

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP  
WE REACH FOR THE STARS

A Jewish star consists of two integrated triangles with six points. These directly relate to the “point” of Jewish education. On the one hand, we strive to learn more about ourselves, our community and our world. At the same time we look critically at our relationship with God, Torah and Israel - both *am* (the people) and *eretz* (the land).

When combined, we have a powerful base for the exploration of our identity as individuals and as Jews. And so we reach for the stars - searching for answers at times just outside our reach, keeping the finer points of our faith in mind as we look to make meaning of ancient traditions in the modern world.

## WE ARE HAR SINAI CONGREGATION

We are a Reform Jewish spiritual home. We bring people together as a community.  
We are a center of study and engagement. We welcome diversity and practice inclusion.

We are socially and environmentally responsible. We are innovative.

We inspire growth and leadership. We stand with Israel.

We are tradition, and we are the future.

We welcome you to join us.



### Program Highlights:

- Sundays Program from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Hebrew Learning Lab ~ one Tuesday per month from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Grade 6 Operation Mitzvah Mission & Grade 7 Hebrew On The Farm during program hours
- Informal Youth Activities available to all grade levels
- Opportunities to practice skills in various settings
- Small class sizes; individualized attention

## MENSCHKINS AND BONIM (BUILDERS) GRADES K-2

We believe that a strong, positive exposure to Judaism has an impact on a child's future Jewish identity. In our early elementary program, Sunday mornings are filled with stories and songs which illumine a curiosity in our students. The more they discover, the more they want to uncover about our people's past and how it relates to them. Our students use all of their

senses to connect to the rich heritage of Judaism and begin to immerse themselves in the building blocks of the Hebrew language.

Access to our specialists and clergy accent their classroom experiences, and monthly Shabbat gatherings reinforce the introduction of blessings and prayers in the curriculum.



Active learning inspires enthusiasm in our early elementary classes.

## CHALUTZIM (PIONEERS), TZOFIM (SCOUTS) & KOCHAVIM (STARS) GRADES 3-5

Our Sundays include Chavurot, small group gatherings, that foster friendships across grade levels and allow for in-depth conversation on topics selected by the students and facilitators.

Grade level Judaic studies include exploring our history, holidays, Torah, Israel, values and mitzvot. We reinforce our curricular goals with Jewish cooking, music, art and library.

Hebrew instruction moves from fluency and accuracy with letters, vowels and reading to the comprehension, key vocabulary and central themes of prayers and blessings.



**"In Chavurah we talk about things, real things, and my opinion matters."**  
~JEM Grade 4 student

## URIM (LIGHTS) AND SHOMRIM (GUARDIANS) GRADES 6 AND 7

Grade 6 students delve deeper into Jewish wisdom, with a strong emphasis on real-world issues including the environment. Service learning is integrated into Operation Mitzvah Mission through a partnership with Jewish Volunteer Connection. The majority of our students are learning how to chant Torah and prayers using trope, the symbols that represent musical notes.



Grade 7 learners work through Conversational and Biblical Hebrew, as well as different historical perspectives and current events. In addition, we will relocate our learning to Pearlstone Center for several sessions as we embark on "Hebrew School on the Farm," an extension of our curriculum.

## HEBREW AS A LIVING LANGUAGE

אבגדהוזהחטי  
כךלמסנוסע  
פףציקרשת

Hebrew is a language that unites  
Jews all over the world.

While the focus of a good deal of our Hebrew program is Hebrew through Prayer, there are many opportunities to view Hebrew as a living language that connects Jews. Our primary Hebrew instruction takes place during our Sunday program.

In addition, our monthly Tuesday JEM Hebrew Learning Lab allows us to polish our Hebrew and practice the keva (order) and kavannah (intention)

of our worship, with an emphasis on Shabbat prayers and worship leadership skills.

Practice at home and attendance at Shabbat services are proven to positively impact our students progress with their Hebrew.

In all grades, we offer assistance to students who may need Hebrew language support through our Resource Hebrew program.

### AVANIM (JEWELS)

#### EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO SHINE

Our JEM program and the Har Sinai community are committed to providing a Jewish education for every child whose family desires it. Our Avanim program (jewels) serves students with a variety of developmental delays.

With a certified Special Education instructor, the curriculum is tailored for each student, with his or her strengths in mind. We work with our students' Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to reinforce skill building.

Avanim students have their own classroom and participate in school activities and specialty programs with their peers. Please call for more information and feel free to pass on to friends and family.



**"I never thought it was possible for my son to participate before. Now each week he asks for 'Temple Sunday School.'"**  
~JEM parent

### GETTING INVOLVED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

During the year we offer several special family programs. Our popular annual Blessing of the Animals is in its third year, we have holiday observances, picnics, education events and Shabbat celebrations to give us a chance to

explore and expand our relationships in the community.

Under the umbrella of the Youth Education Committee, our JEM Parents' Association sponsors many of these events, while some are

provided by the faculty, staff and clergy.

We are always looking for parents to work with us on the committee level, in on-going projects or on special events. Please let us know of your areas of interest.

For additional information  
please contact:

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## BEYOND B'NAI MITZVAH

The Madrichim program at Har Sinai is a popular volunteer option. Beginning in Grade 8, as Madrichim-in-Training (MITs), teens learn positive discipline, lesson planning and classroom management, in order to serve in classrooms and specialty areas as teaching assistants. Beginning in Grade 9, the madrichim choose their assignments. Teens may gain community service hours and funds, banked toward Jewish youth activities such as camp, youth group activities and Israel trips.



Additionally, many of our teens continue their learning by participating in our community Hebrew High School, BEIT-RJ, the Baltimore Educational Initiative for Teens of Reform Judaism. BEIT-RJ is anchored by a weekly Monday evening program, with several additional programs tailored to meet our young adults' scheduling needs and interests.

## WE LOVE OUR YOUTH - OH YEAH!

OPERATION FOR HOLISTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND AUDACIOUS HOSPITALITY!

Har Sinai provides and supports youth engagement programs for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. We begin with Club Rishon (First Club) for Grades K-2 and move up to Chaverim (Friends) in Grades 3-5. Beginning in Grades 6-8 with Kol Tov (It's All Good) and Grades 9-12 in HaSTY (Har Sinai Temple Youth), teens are self-led with adult support.

We have a strong presence in NFTY-MAR, the North American Federation of Temple Youth - Mid-Atlantic Region and have many students actively involved in the JCC Middle School and Teen Leadership Councils and BBYO, among other programs offered through partnerships with The Associated and beyond.

Activities vary from group to group, and there's always something going on! Registration for Grades K - 7 is included in enrollment at JEM; HaSTY maintains a separate registration process created by our teens. Contact Aaron Klaus, Youth Engagement Coordinator, at [aklaus@harsinai-md.org](mailto:aklaus@harsinai-md.org) or 410-654-9393 ext. 1020 for more information.